



Promoting integrated landscape management approach for conservation of the Mount Elgon ecosystem in Eastern Uganda

Part I: Project Information

Name of Parent Program

Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program

GEF ID

10463

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Promoting integrated landscape management approach for conservation of the Mount Elgon ecosystem in Eastern Uganda

Countries

Uganda

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Biomes, Biodiversity, Land Degradation, Focal Areas, International Waters, Civil Society, Stakeholders, Sustainable Land Management, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Sustainable Pasture Management, Food Security, Mangrove, Tropical Rain Forests, Paramo, Tropical Dry Forests, Mainstreaming, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Certification - International Standards, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Financial and Accounting, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approach, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Indigenous Peoples, Beneficiaries, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Education, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Private Sector, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Consultation, Participation, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Enabling Activities

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Submission Date

9/11/2021

Expected Implementation Start

1/1/2022

Expected Completion Date

12/31/2026

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

848,973.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
IP FOLU	Promoting effective coordination and adaptive management for Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration	GET	9,433,027.00	82,014,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			9,433,027.00	82,014,000.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To transition the Mt. Elgon region to a sustainable, biodiverse, climate-resilient, integrated landscape with efficient coffee and staple crops (maize, banana and Irish potato) value and supply chain.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Integrated Mt. Elgon Landscape Management System and institutional frameworks and improved governance	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 1.1: Integrated landscape approaches adopted at Landscape and National Level</p> <p>Outcome 1.2: Strengthened institutional and governance systems for implementation of the integrated Landscape plan</p>	<p>Output 1.1.1: Information on land use and vulnerability to climate change impacts of the Mt. Elgon landscape to inform land use management planning updated</p> <p>Output 1.1.2: Integrated Landscape Management approaches and Biodiversity conservation mainstreamed into district local governments and sectoral development plans and budgets.</p> <p>Output 1.1.3: A sustainable Integrated land management plan for Mt. Elgon landscape developed through participatory processes</p> <p>Output 1.1.4: Barriers hindering women as well as men from participating in ILM approaches identified and</p>	GET	1,123,300.00	9,974,700.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Sustainable coffee and staple crops production practices & responsible value chains	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2.1: Increase in adoption of sustainable production practices for coffee and staple crops in the Mt. Elgon landscape	Output 2.1.1: Highland specific climate smart agriculture & SLM practices, including on-farm diversification promoted	GET	2,194,255.00	19,613,295.00
		Outcome 2.2: Increased share of coffee and staple crops production from Mt. Elgon region being marketed through responsible value chains	Output 2.1.2: Incentives (revolving funds and credit schemes) for sustainable production of crops and their marketing created			
			Output 2.1.3: Capacity of farmers, extension workers and other actors to apply sustainable coffee standard along coffee value chain enhanced			
			Output 2.2.1: Capacity of the smallholder farmers (women and men) to participate in the coffee and food crop value chains built			
			Output 2.2.2: Coffee and food crop value chains developed,			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3: Natural habitat restoration	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3.1: Improved condition of habitats ensuring biodiversity conservation, preservation of ecosystem services and maintenance of carbon stocks	<p>Output 3.1.1: Measures to ensure sustainable restoration of degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes in the nine project districts put in place</p> <p>Output 3.1.2: Stakeholder awareness and understanding of the benefits of restoring degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes to communities, local economies and nature increased</p> <p>Output 3.1.3: Degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes restored (35,000 ha of degraded farmland and hilltops, 20,000 ha of degraded forest and wetlands areas)</p>	GET	4,796,660.00	41,186,697.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4: Knowledge management (sharing, learning and scaling up)	Technical Assistance	Outcome 4.1: Sector agencies and relevant institutions applying ILM approaches in their planning and policies.	<p>Output 4.1.1: An interactive M&E system developed and operationalized to track implementation of ILM in Mt. Elgon landscape for purpose for scaling in similar areas in Uganda</p> <p>Output 4.1.2: Best practices and lessons learned documented and shared at landscape, national and regional levels to inform uptake of ILM practices and policy</p> <p>Output 4.1.3: Best practices and lessons learned shared at landscape, national and regional levels to inform uptake of ILM practices and policy</p> <p>Output 4.1.4: Best practices and lessons learned shared at regional and global FOLUR partners and CPs meetings and conferences in the Global Platform</p>	GET	471,786.00	3,130,074.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Monitoring and evaluation	Technical Assistance	Monitoring and evaluation	Monitoring and evaluation	GET	410,375.00	3,909,375.00
Sub Total (\$)					8,996,376.00	77,814,141.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
GET			436,651.00	4,199,859.00		
Sub Total(\$)			436,651.00	4,199,859.00		
Total Project Cost(\$)			9,433,027.00	82,014,000.00		

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	National Environment Management Authority	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,669,900.00
Recipient Country Government	National Environment Management Authority	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	7,448,120.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries	Grant	Investment mobilized	28,332,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Water and Environment	Grant	Investment mobilized	12,760,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Water and Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	6,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Uganda Coffee Development Authority	Grant	Investment mobilized	350,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Uganda Coffee Development Authority	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA),	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA),	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Forestry Authority (NFA	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Forestry Authority (NFA	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Bududa District Local Government	Grant	Investment mobilized	50,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Bududa District Local Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	111,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Bukwo District Local Government	Grant	Investment mobilized	50,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Bukwo District Local Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	111,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Bulambuli District Local Government	Grant	Investment mobilized	50,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Bulambuli District Local Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	111,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Kapchorwa District Local Government	Grant	Investment mobilized	50,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Kapchorwa District Local Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	111,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Kween District Local Government	Grant	Investment mobilized	50,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Kween District Local Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	111,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Manafwa District Local Government	Grant	Investment mobilized	50,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Manafwa District Local Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	111,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Mbale District Local Government	Grant	Investment mobilized	50,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Mbale District Local Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	111,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Namisindwa District Local Government	Grant	Investment mobilized	50,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Namisindwa District Local Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	111,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Sironko District Local Government	Grant	Investment mobilized	50,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Sironko District Local Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	111,000.00
Donor Agency	International Union for Conservation of Nature	Grant	Investment mobilized	800,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Donor Agency	International Union for Conservation of Nature	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00
Other	World Agroforestry Research center / ICRAF	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
Other	World Agroforestry Research center / ICRAF	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,688,000.00
Private Sector	Bugisu Cooperative Union	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
Private Sector	Bugisu Cooperative Union	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250,000.00
Private Sector	Sebei Elgon Cooperative Union	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
Private Sector	Sebei Elgon Cooperative Union	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250,000.00
Private Sector	Kalaa Mugosi Women Empowerment Ltd	Grant	Investment mobilized	222,330.00
Private Sector	Kalaa Mugosi Women Empowerment Ltd	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	583,330.00
Private Sector	Mt. Elgon Agroforestry Communities Coop Enterprise Ltd	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	583,330.00
Private Sector	Bushika Integrated Area Cooperative Enterprise Ltd	Grant	Investment mobilized	222,330.00
Private Sector	Bushika Integrated Area Cooperative Enterprise Ltd	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	583,330.00
Private Sector	Mt. Elgon Agroforestry Communities Coop Enterprise Ltd	Grant	Investment mobilized	222,330.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Total Co-Financing(\$)				82,014,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The "Investments Mobilized" was clarified to mean those investments that were identified through the analysis and enumeration of existing and future investments of the project stakeholders that will contribute to the attainment of the project objective and outcomes. These investments are mainly contained in programs and projects which are currently in operation and/or in the pipeline for the duration of the period of project implementation. Public investments are those that were identified from the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) budget allocations for the participating ministries and District Local Governments. The "Investment Mobilized" was determined through the identification and enumeration of existing and future investments of the project stakeholders that will contribute to the attainment of the project objective and outcomes. These investments are mainly programs and projects which are currently in operation and/or in the pipeline for the duration of the period of project implementation. These include investments from on-going projects (Agriculture Cluster Development Project and Agricultural Value Chain Development Program) which have been pledged by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. Other stakeholders such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the World Agroforestry Centre were part of the partnership during the development of the project, and from bilateral discussions have agreed to mobilize funds from their internal expenditures for the project. Through bilateral discussions, the private sector i.e. Bugisu Cooperative Union, Sebei Elgon Cooperative Union, Kalaa Mugosi Women Empowerment Ltd, Mt. Elgon Agroforestry Communities Cooperative Enterprise Ltd and Bushika Integrated Area Cooperative Enterprise Ltd identified and agreed to participate and provide the following services to the project as part of their investment: farmer capacity building; provision of extension services; demonstration sites; farmer mobilization and sensitization; value addition; provision of agro-inputs, certification, provision of coffee drying and storage facilities and provision of farm credit. The government of Uganda public investments were identified from the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) budget allocations for the contributing ministries (Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, Ministry of Water and Environment, the District Local Governments of Bududa, Bukwo, Bulambuli, Kapchorwa, Kween, Manafwa, Mbale, Namisindwa and Sironko)

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNEP	GET	Uganda	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	3,161,009	284,491
UNEP	GET	Uganda	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,784,862	160,638
UNEP	GET	Uganda	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,326,147	119,353
UNEP	GET	Uganda	Multi Focal Area	IP FOLU Set-Aside	3,161,009	284,491
Total Grant Resources(\$)					9,433,027.00	848,973.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)
PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)
200,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)
18,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programmin g of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNEP	GET	Uganda	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	50,000	4,500
UNEP	GET	Uganda	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	50,000	4,500
UNEP	GET	Uganda	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	50,000	4,500
UNEP	GET	Uganda	Multi Focal Area	IP FOLU Set-Aside	50,000	4,500
Total Project Costs(\$)					200,000.00	18,000.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	55000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	35,000.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	19,750.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	250.00		

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	510000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Type/Name of Third Party Certification

the following certification standards are in the MT Elgon landscape 1. Fair-trade certification (3,544 ha) , 2. Organic certification (3,038 ha) 3. Utz certification (6,627 ha), 3. Rainforest Alliance certification (2,147 ha) 4. 4C (area to be established at inception)

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	510,000.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted
Annex F Core indicator worksheet for Uganda Mt Elgon	

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	0	10834692	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)		10,834,692		
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2022		
Duration of accounting		20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		192,764		
Male		191,275		
Total	0	384039	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

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PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF

The final project design is aligned to the original concept; it preserves its main objective, strategy and structure. However, some adjustments were made to the outcomes and outputs based on discussions with expert reviewers, project partners, experts and key stakeholders during the PPG, aiming to improve precision in outputs and indicators so as to best achieve the outcomes and the overall objective. While the original number of outputs were eighteen (18), these have been increased to nineteen (19) by removing one output (Output 2.1.3) and including two additional outputs to Outcome 3.1 Output 2.1.3 has been deleted after it became apparent that to achieve it would require concerted efforts locally, nationally and internationally to identify, pitch and conclude negotiations with prospective impact investors. As such, even if it would have been possible to coordinate with the FOLUR Global Platform on this output, it was decided that this out should be removed to avoid unnecessarily complicating the project. Output 3.1.1 (Measures to ensure sustainable restoration of degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes in the nine project districts put in place) and Output 3.1.2 (Stakeholder awareness and understanding of the benefits of restoring degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes to communities, local economies and nature increased) have now been included to actualize the achievement of the Outcome which aims at ensuring natural habitat restoration. Under Outcome 1.1, there has been a re-ordering of outputs by including ?A sustainable integrated land management plan for Mt. Elgon landscape developed through participatory processes? as Output 1.1.2 instead of as 1.1.3. The previous Output 2.1.2, namely, ?Integrated Landscape Management approaches and Biodiversity conservation mainstreamed into district local governments and sectoral development plans and budgets? now becomes Output 2.1.3. This now provides a sequential order of activities that will be implemented to simultaneously achieve Outputs 2.1.2 and 2.1.3. To reflect the expected change and result from implementing the project, some minor changes mainly regarding wording were made to Outcomes 2.1, 2.2, 3.1 and 4.1 as well as Outputs 1.1.4, 1.2.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.4 and 3.1.2. (See table below). The general focus and thrust of the project has, however, not been changed. During the PPG phase, a scoping and verification mission was conducted in the project districts. Consultations were conducted with the proposed project partners, political and civil leaders as well as local people at selected sites. This provided a clearer picture of the extent and scale of degradation and current management practices. The areas (sub-counties) where project activities will be implemented was selected by project partners in a participatory meeting (workshop) and are included in the project alternative strategy. These observations/targets have been incorporated into the Project Document and the CEO endorsement request.

PIF	CEO ER	Comments on changes
Full sized project	FOLUR IP Full Sized project	The project type nomenclature was slightly adjusted to indicate that this is a child project of the FOLUR IP GP

<p>Project Objective: ?To transition the Mt. Elgon region to a sustainable, integrated landscape with efficient coffee and staple crops (maize, banana and Irish potato) value and supply chain</p>	<p>Project Objective: ?To transition the Mt. Elgon region to a sustainable, biodiverse, climate-resilient, integrated landscape with efficient coffee and staple crops (maize, banana and Irish potato) value and supply chain</p>	<p>The project objective was slightly adjusted by adding the words ? biodiverse, climate-resilient? to stress the drive to enhance biodiversity and mitigate environmental impacts. This does not change the import of the project objective, but rather clarifies on what the project aims to achieve.</p>
<p>Output 1.1.4: Barriers hindering gender (women, men, vulnerable groups, etc.) from participating in ILM approaches identified and addressed</p>	<p>Output 1.1.4: Barriers hindering women as well as men from participating in ILM approaches identified and addressed</p>	<p>The wording for this output was edited to clarify on the main intention of the project i.e. gender equality rather than social inclusion. Therefore, the categories viz. youth, vulnerable groups etc.) have been removed as it has been the intention of the project from the beginning to work with gender equality rather than social inclusion.</p>
<p>Output 1.2.1: Strengthen the capacity of extension workers and key local government leaders to manage natural resources within Mt. Elgon landscape.</p>	<p>Output 1.2.1: Capacity of extension workers and key local government leaders to manage natural resources within Mt. Elgon landscape strengthened.</p>	<p>The wording has been altered from that presented during PIF (which read more like an activity) to the current which now clearly indicates the expected result.</p>

Outcome 2.1: Sustainable production practices for coffee and staple crops production practices promoted in the Mt. Elgon landscape	Outcome 2.1: Increase in adoption of sustainable production practices for coffee and staple crops in the Mt. Elgon landscape	The wording for this outcome was slightly edited (without any change in focus) to clearly articulate the expected change resulting from the contributing outputs.
Output 2.1.2: Create incentives (revolving funds and credit schemes) for sustainable production of crops and their marketing.	Output 2.1.2: Incentives (revolving funds and credit schemes) for sustainable production of crops and their marketing created	The wording has been altered from that presented during PIF (which read more like an activity) to the current which now clearly indicates the expected result.
Output 2.1.3	This output has been deleted	Although this output was planned at PIF, at this stage the stakeholders reflected on the feasibility of achieving this output given that it is also heavily dependent on extraneous factors. Although there would be an opportunity to coordinate with the FOLUR Global Platform on this, the project development team and stakeholders realized that it would require immense effort (including political and local governance) and resource input to pitch prospective investors and get all the necessary paperwork done. It has therefore been decided that, in order not to unnecessarily complicate the project, this output should be removed.
Output 2.1.4: Build capacity of farmers, extension workers and other actors to apply sustainable coffee standard along coffee value chain.	Output 2.1.3: Capacity of farmers, extension workers and other actors to apply sustainable coffee standard along coffee value chain enhanced	The wording has been altered from that presented during PIF (which read more like an activity) to the current which now clearly indicates the expected result.

Outcome 2.2: Sustainable Market linkages and responsible value chains improved for coffee and staple crops	Outcome 2.2: Increased share of coffee and staple crops production from Mt. Elgon region being marketed through responsible value chains.	The wording for this outcome was slightly edited (without any change in focus) to clearly articulate the expected change resulting from the contributing outputs.
Outcome 3.1: Improved habitats for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and carbon stocks	Outcome 3.1: Improved condition of habitats ensuring biodiversity conservation, preservation of ecosystem services and maintenance of carbon stocks	The wording for this outcome was slightly edited (without any change in focus) to clearly articulate the expected change resulting from the contributing outputs.
Output 3.1.2: Awareness and understanding of the benefits of restoring degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes to communities, local economies and nature increased	Output 3.1.2: Stakeholder awareness and understanding of the benefits of restoring degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes to communities, local economies and nature increased	The wording has been altered from that presented during PIF (which read more like an activity) to the current which now clearly indicates the expected result. Also, in the main text, an innovative methodology of using Randomized Control Trials (RCT) to follow up the interventions to assess and analyze the effectiveness of the interventions and determine whether a cause-effect relation exists between the interventions and the outcome exist has been introduced.
Outcome 4.1: Improved knowledge on Integrated Landscape Management approaches at landscape, national and regional levels	Outcome 4.1: Sector agencies and relevant institutions applying ILM approaches in their planning and policies.	The wording for this outcome was slightly edited (without any change in focus) to clearly articulate the expected change resulting from the contributing outputs.

Barrier 3: Degraded forests and land degradation, biodiversity loss and worsening climate change impacts.	Barrier 3: Inadequate skills and technologies for Sustainable Land Management leading to deforestation, forest and land degradation, biodiversity loss and worsening climate change impacts.	Barrier 3 has been further clarified from the version that was presented at PIF to elaborate the specific barriers that will be addressed by the project.
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1.1. 1a. Project Description Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)

Uganda (located between 29° 34' - 35° 0' East and 4° 12' North - 1° 29' South) has a total surface area of 241,550 km² of which 41,743 km² (17.2%) is open water and wetlands and 199,807 km² is open land. It is endowed with varied landscapes of magnificent aesthetic beauty, ranging from glacier-topped mountains, rain forests, savannahs, and dry deciduous Acacia bush-land to numerous freshwater lakes, rivers and wetlands. Agriculture is central to the country's economic growth, poverty reduction and industrialization as stated in Uganda's Vision 2040 and the third National Development Plan (NDP III) (2020/2021-2024/2025). The two development frameworks focus on investments in the following crops along the value chains: coffee, cotton, tea, maize, rice, cassava, beans, fish, beef, milk, citrus and bananas. These crops have been selected for several reasons, including food and nutrition security (maize, beans, cassava, bananas) and contribution to export earnings. The agricultural value chain encompasses production, transportation, storage, processing, marketing and distribution. Additional emphasis is geared towards increased female participation in cash crop production; high multiplier effects in other sectors of the economy; increasing production and productivity through sustainable land management; high returns on investment; harnessing regional and international markets; agriculture's contribution to GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and high potential for employment generation. In meeting the economic growth, poverty reduction and industrialization plans, Government has identified and prioritized equitable access to productive land, sustainable natural resources management and integrated landscape planning and management as critical development pathways. Even though Uganda has a large proportion of arable land, decline in soil fertility and general environmental degradation are significant problems that continue to undermine production and productivity[1]. It is estimated that 4% - 12% of the GNP is lost as a result of environmental degradation of which soil erosion, nutrient loss and changes in crops account for 85%.

One of Uganda's critical landscapes faced with vast land management challenges is the Mt. Elgon landscape. This mountain landscape is a food basket supporting a population of approximately four million people with productive yet vulnerable resources. The region experiences extensive impacts of land degradation in the form of loss of tree cover, severe erosion, increasingly frequent occurrence of landslides, excessive soil nutrient depletion due to over-cultivation and offsite effect of sedimentation and flooding in the lowlands. In addition to the dense population, the high intensity of zero grazed

cattle population puts pressure on the resources leading to degradation and increased enteric cattle-based greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The remaining forests and wetlands within the Mt. Elgon landscape are threatened by encroachment caused by agricultural expansion, overharvesting of forest products and inappropriate agricultural practices, compounded by effects of climate variability and change. The biodiversity has steadily declined at the ecosystem level, where habitats, species assemblages, and natural processes have drastically diminished and degraded in quality, thus weakening the fabric of ecological processes and curtailing prospects of sustainable economic growth.

The systemic challenges inherent in the region include rising coffee production without the integration of sustainable landscape approaches, lack of organization and collective action by civil society organizations, local communities and other agencies across the landscape to ensure optimum utilization of land, lack of incentives for farmers to invest in the land, weak enforcement of policies and regulations, poorly facilitated environmental governance and law enforcement agencies, limited inter-sectoral and inter-district coordination, lack of effective incentives and financial/market instruments to promote sustainable production and strengthen links to the value chains; inadequate international value chain actor involvement, insufficient incorporation of soil health in sustainable land management operations and high prevalence of poverty.

Unsustainable land management practices result in loss of soil fertility, contribute to an increase in GHG emissions, increase community and ecosystem's vulnerability to climate variability and change and reduce adaptive capacities at the local level. To effectively promote integrated landscape management in the Mt. Elgon landscape, it is important that the threats and root causes of land degradation are identified and properly understood. Land degradation in the Mt. Elgon landscape is directly attributed to biophysical factors and unsustainable land management practices.

The prevailing conditions in the Mt. Elgon landscape are the product of a combination of natural and man-made processes. Generally, forest cover in the Mt. Elgon landscape has significantly reduced over the last decade, a trend largely attributed to expansion of farmlands into previously forested areas. Expansion of farmland is therefore closely associated with vast deforestation, wetland degradation and loss of biodiversity. The highest deforestation occurs in the middle and down slope locations. The upslope areas have experienced less degradation as the human activity there has been compounded by the steep terrain and climatic conditions there. The region experiences extensive impacts of land degradation in the form of loss of tree cover, severe erosion, increasingly frequent occurrence of landslides and excessive soil nutrient depletion with accompanying loss of carbon stocks (see Table 1). From data available on Trends-Earth for a period of only two years (2018 to 2020), except for gains realized in tree covered areas, mainly Mt. Elgon National Park), there has been a net downward trend in soil carbon stocks in grasslands (-9.20%), croplands (-4.27%) and wetlands (-0.93%). Up to 95,740 ha (22.77%) of the Mt. Elgon landscape are considered degraded, 182,262 ha (42.62%) are considered as stable while 143,531 ha (34.58%) are considered as improved (Table 2). The remaining forests and wetlands within the Mt. Elgon landscape are threatened by encroachment caused by agricultural expansion, overharvesting of forest products and inappropriate agricultural practices, compounded by effects of climate variability and change. The biodiversity has steadily declined at the ecosystem level, where habitats, species assemblages, and natural processes have drastically diminished and degraded in quality, thus weakening the fabric of ecological processes and curtailing prospects of sustainable economic growth. In addition to the dense population, the high intensity of zero grazed cattle population puts pressure on the resources leading to degradation and increased enteric cattle-based greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Table 1. Soil carbon stocks for the Mt. Elgon landscape 2018 - 2020[2]

Land cover class	Soil organic carbon (tons) 2018	Soil organic carbon (tons) 2020	Change in soil organic carbon	
			Tons	percent
Tree-covered areas	23,351,479	25,534,051	2,182,571	9.35%
Grasslands	6,114,272	5,551,849	-562,423	-9.20%
Croplands	18,004,307	17,235,277	-769,030	-4.27%

Wetlands	356,445	353,138	-3,307	-0.93%
Artificial areas	1,589	51,908	50,319	3166.66%
	47,828,092	48,726,223	898,130	

Table 2: Status of land cover degradation in the Mt. Elgon landscape by land cover type[3]

Land cover class	Degraded (22.77%)			Stable (42.62%)	Improved (34.58%)	Total*
	<i>Declining</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Stressed</i>	<i>Stable</i>	<i>Increasing</i>	
	Reverse: Restoration or Rehabilitation	Reduced rate of degradation		Prevent: avoid land degradation		
Tree-covered areas	1,248	5,462	13,605	96,042	39,995	156,352
Grasslands	7,255	16,186	9,124	13,921	31,007	77,493
Croplands	3,029	8,677	29,607	71,157	71,282	183,752
Wetlands	0	143	143	1,142	1,247	2,675
Artificial areas	6	6	6	0	0	18
Total	11,538	30,474	52,485	182,262	143,531	420,290

*A total of 93 ha are not included above due to no data in some areas

The Mt Elgon landscape which is particularly famous for Arabica coffee is a priority landscape for sustainable coffee production systems. This mountain landscape is a food basket supporting a population of approximately four million people growing at 3.5% per year with productive yet vulnerable resources.

Temperatures in the Mt. Elgon region are influenced by altitude. Higher altitude areas are much cooler than low altitude areas. Rainfall also varies with altitude, the upper slopes receiving relatively more rain than lower lying areas. Like most parts of Uganda, rainfall in the Elgon region is bimodal, with the first and second rains occurring in March - May and August/October respectively. Mount Elgon experiences intense dry spells from December to February. The climatic changes coupled with land use change causes various climate-related perturbations and hazards e.g. strong winds, lightning, soil erosion, crop pests and diseases, flooding, landslides, drought, famine, and human diseases. Although the importance of these hazards is context specific, the local communities report a drastic change in pattern, timing and amount of rain over the last 5-10 years.

Drought is also a major threat to sustainable land management in the Mt. Elgon landscape. Perceptions of drought, however, vary because reduction in rainfall may range from a few weeks to several years and its effects depend on the situation in a particular area. In the Mt. Elgon region, rainfall shortages last for up to four months. Therefore, drought in this region may actually be considered as only prolonged dry spells. These are often associated with elevation, wind circulation and vegetation cover, given the influence these have on rainfall and temperature regimes. Prolonged dry spells with incipient rainfall thus result in water scarcity leading to water stress and unfavorable conditions for plant growth.

In Mt. Elgon National Park, landslides have been observed to occur even on the densely forested slopes. This implies that other causal factors such as geology, slope shape, slope undercutting, soil texture and heavy rainfall are quite important. Past landslide occurrences in the Mt. Elgon landscape have tended to concentrate in the mid and upslope areas. Steep concave slopes, oriented to the north-east and especially where deforestation and cultivation have taken place, are more exposed to landslides. Damage to roads and other infrastructure can further marginalize and isolate the already affected communities. The ultimate outcome of these impacts is untold suffering and poverty. This is in addition to loss of human lives which may occur in the event of severe landslides.

Scientific and community observations for the last 10 to 15 years in the Mt. Elgon landscape have reported increased rainfall resulting in flash floods[4]. Under current conditions, flooding in this region is closely associated with the drainage system (rivers and streams) in mid and upslope areas. This implies that locations along riverbanks are increasingly exposed to flooding. Specific locations with high flood incidence include Cheringir valley, Tuyobei, Kaibeyos, Sikwo, Seretyo, Kaimareng, Moroto, Sundet and Cheborom in Kween district; Mutyoro and Chebchebai streams in Kapchorwa district; Bukalu, Nabongo, Muyembe and Simu parishes in Bulambuli district; and Karawa, Buyi and Nakiwombe parishes in Sironko district. Crop failure due to flooding often translates into food shortage and increased poverty. Floods also constrain livestock production due to death of animals. Moreover, since flooding usually results in destruction of roads and bridges, access to and marketing of crop produce is hampered.

Torrential rainfall, landslides and flooding result in soil erosion: Technically, soil erosion is one form of soil degradation along with soil compaction, low organic matter, loss of soil structure, poor internal drainage, salinization and soil acidity. Mt. Elgon landscape is exposed to several types of soil loss including sheet (surface flow across a wide section of land), rill (shallow and narrow tunnels), gully (deep and wide tunnels) and landslide/ mudslide[5]. Erosion washes away top soil leading to nutrient depletion and decline in soil fertility. Declining soil fertility is a major hindrance to agricultural production as it results in reduced crop yields. To sustain agricultural production, farmers are compelled to apply fertilizers which greatly increase the cost of crop production. Given that most people depend on agricultural production for food and income, soil erosion is one of the factors contributing to poverty and food insecurity in Mt. Elgon region[6]. Besides the gradual decline in land productivity, soil erosion leads to formation of gullies and siltation of rivers and streams. Gullies are particularly destructive to roads and combine with the rough terrain to compound accessibility to remote areas. Siltation of rivers and streams on the other hand, leads to contamination of water sources due to increased impurity-load. In some instances, communities from upslope locations purchase organic manure from down slope areas where most of the fertile soils are deposited by erosion.

The above-mentioned threats to sustainable land management are driven by many factors whose understanding is critical to designing strategies to address the problem of land degradation and to increase agricultural production. Many socioeconomic and policy-related factors can be considered as being the root causes of land degradation in the Mt. Elgon landscape, including population pressure; poverty; agricultural commercialization; high purchased-input costs; lack of access to rural finance, markets, and public services; decentralization; privatization of the delivery of basic services, including technical assistance; land-tenure relationships; and general policy reforms.

1. **Population pressure:** Population growth is one of the most important factors behind the increased land fragmentation in Mt. Elgon landscape. The average annual rate of population growth in the Elgon region is 3.4%. Population growth increases the pressure on arable land, resulting in land fragmentation. This also likely contributes to soil nutrient mining, as well as increasing erosion. Population growth leads to conversion of land to agricultural use and settlements.

2. **Poverty:** This is a serious problem in the Mt. Elgon landscape in particular and Uganda in general, and is predominantly concentrated in rural areas. Poverty reduces farmers' ability to pay for investments in land improvement and accentuates the short-term perspective of farmers, which may limit their interest in making long-term investments in soil and water conservation. Moreover, with increasing poverty, farmers tend to grow all crops with a commercial orientation. This has great impacts on land management.

3. **Agricultural commercialization:** In the Mt. Elgon region, coffee is the main cash crop that is marketed, which, in turn, increases farmers' income-earning. But this has probably contributed to land degradation, because (1) exported plant nutrients through commercialization are not adequately replenished, and (2) farmers are less willing to invest in labor-intensive land management and conservation practices due to the costs involved.

4. **High cost of inputs:** The lack of proper tools for transforming the physical structure of the land, such as digging trenches, is a critical problem. The inability of smallholder farmers to replenish soil nutrients is seriously inhibiting sustainable land management in the Mt. Elgon landscape. The high cost of inputs, particularly fertilizer, may be the most important reason for their limited use. Recently liberalized markets often deliver fertilizer to rural areas at prices that render its use unprofitable; hence the low demand. However, fertilizer prices remain relatively high and unaffordable to the majority of farmers. Fertilizers would be profitable under high-input management practices, where complementary technologies, such as improved seeds, are used. However, use of a package of technologies is less feasible than the use of one component of a technological package for resource-poor farmers, given credit constraints.

5. **Access to credit facilities:** Although there are some credit institutions available in the region, most small scale farmers are not able to access them due to the costs involved. Lack of credit not only contributes to an emphasis on the short-term perspective of farmers, which fuels overexploitation and degradation of the natural resource base, it also reduces the farmers' ability to acquire and use purchased inputs needed for sustainable agricultural development.

6. **Access to markets:** Lack of access to markets can be a disincentive for proper land management. Farmers are therefore constrained to pay for and obtain agricultural inputs due to lower prices for their outputs and higher transactional costs. Farmers are therefore not able to shift to improved production through the use of new land management opportunities (such as the use of manure).

7. **Decentralization of service delivery:** The government of Uganda operates a devolved system of administration, where local institutions have been mandated to manage local natural resources and the environment. District and local environmental committees have been formed to enact and enforce environmental and natural resources ordinances and by-laws. Although this strategy is appealing, decentralization faces daunting challenges related to limited financial and human resources. Agricultural extension services have therefore been negatively affected, due to the lack of resources and job security for extension officers. Decentralization also presents challenges with respect to the transfer of information on technologies from research stations to farmers. This has had a serious impact on land management in the landscape.

8. **Land tenure:** Land tenure security can influence land management, because it may affect farmers' incentive or ability to invest in land improvements. Farmers holding land under insecure tenure are less likely to invest in such long-term investments as building soil and water conservation structures and planting trees. Land tenure may also affect farmers' access to credit (affecting their ability to invest). In Uganda, there are four major land tenure systems that are recognized by the Land Act of 1998, namely: customary, freehold, leasehold, and mailo land tenure systems. In the Mt. Elgon landscape, customary land tenure, which is a traditional landholding that is governed by the customs, rules, and regulations of the community, is the prevalent system. Holders of land under the customary system do not have a formal land title, but generally have secure tenure. Under this tenure, land is divided among clans, which in turn divide it among households. Households holding land under customary tenure are granted an indefinite tenancy, but they are expected to bequeath land to their children. Although this creates a strong sense of ownership, security, and continuity; it contributes to land fragmentation, as such land is subdivided among children from generation to generation.

The long-term solution advanced by this project is to develop a sustainable, integrated Mt. Elgon landscape with efficient value chains of coffee and staple crops (maize, banana and Irish potato). This will be achieved through the application of innovative solutions to the following barriers that currently inhibit the successful realization of sustainable land management and the achievement of associated LDN targets in the Mt. Elgon landscape:

Barrier 1: Fragmented/disjointed landscape planning, management and governance leading to unsustainable agricultural practices with inefficient value chains.

Driven by the increasing human population pressures (population growth rate of 3.4% per annum),[7] unsustainable land management practices characterize the agricultural sector. The major challenge is how to meet the growing demand for agricultural products and address food security challenges while simultaneously conserving ecosystems that provide critical ecosystem goods and services. There is an urgent need to direct productive practices in a strategic manner through the design and implementation of coherent and coordinated land and resource use management planning. As detailed under section 2.4 on institutional, sectoral and policy context, Uganda has a number of regulations, policies and strategies designed to promote sustainability. However, areas such as the Mt. Elgon landscape often do not have the capacity and/or experience required to successfully implement comprehensive land use planning and management approaches. Without a unifying land use plan, actions and investments are often divergent and not strategically aligned to deliver sustainable land management objectives. Unsustainable farming practices (e.g. mono-cropping and absence of soil conservation measures) are detrimental to the productivity of the Mt. Elgon landscape with ripple adverse impacts on all stakeholders[8].

Although integrated landscape management approaches could provide practical solutions to the above problem, only a few farmers in the Mt. Elgon landscape can access information on land use and vulnerability to climate change impacts for planning purposes. There is a big information gap on the state of integrated landscape management approaches at the Mt. Elgon landscape level. There is no systematic approach or strategy in place to prioritize data collection and collate information required to inform sustainable land management. The paucity of such information and actual processes means that there is a shortage of trigger factors of production that can lead to efficient and effective value chains. Moreover, the local governments do not have adequate capacity for efficient and effective law enforcement and control of natural resource exploitation. The District Development Plans in the Mt. Elgon region highlight the imperative of consolidating and updating land and resource use planning and management. However, capacity building is urgently required to catalyze a move from ?desire? to ?reality?.

Although there are government and private governance systems that are addressing land management in Mt. Elgon landscape, institutional strengthening and capacity building at the farmer level have been weak. Most of the efforts have focused on strengthening the technical capacity of institutions, and

relegating the technical support and advisory services desired by farmers, especially the provision of management skills and procedures for landscape management. More emphasis has been put on public sector institutional formation and organization than strengthening of institutional functions. Without strengthening institutional function, weaknesses in establishment and enforcement of rules and provision of institutional services are impeded. In addition, there is a general lack of respect for local and devolved governance, and vague understanding of how farmers manage the landscape in terms of the roles of men and women and balancing of multiple uses (agriculture, income generation, conservation). The absence of an effective governance system elicits poor service delivery, corruption and escalates adverse effects on landscape productivity and local people's livelihoods. As a result, local people's rights and responsibilities are undermined leading to incessant landscape degradation and gender inequity that contribute to poverty and persistent suffering.

Relating to gender inequality agricultural production, women in the Mount Elgon region remain the biggest group of landless people and do not have the same rights in terms of land tenure and transactions. While women are in control of the food crops for domestic consumption, mainly seasonal crops, such as bananas and beans, men control the use of perennial cash crops, such as coffee. In cases where there is surplus for sale, the men control the money and decide how much to give to women. In addition, in general trees belong to men and women can't own, control or profit from any trees of higher value.[9] Table 1 below shows the resource ownership between men and women within a household in Mbale district.

Table 1. Resource ownership disaggregated by gender in Mbale district of the Mt. Elgon landscape, Uganda

Resource	Acquisition, Ownership, Control and Use			
	Who bought	Who owns	Who controls	Who uses
Land	Men	Men	Men	Family members
Tree/Forest	Men	Men	Men	Men
Animals	Men	Men	Men	Family members

Such gender inequality as described above has important implications in terms of sustainable land management in the Mt. Elgon landscape. Women are the main tillers of the land but have limited ability and incentives to improve and diversify their livelihoods and the overall diversity of land where they work.

In view of the above factors, Component 1 of this project therefore identifies strategic land use planning, integrated landscape management and effective governance as a solid approach that will contribute to the achievement of Uganda's LDN targets, and promote sustainable gender-supportive agricultural practices with efficient crop value chains

Barrier 2: Irresponsible coffee and staple crop value chains that are unresponsive to resource-poor farmers' needs coupled with inadequate market linkages thereby

The systemic challenges to coffee and other staple food production in the Mt. Elgon region include: a) lack of organization and collective action across the landscape to ensure optimum utilization of land as well as control in terms of negotiation between producers and consumers[10]; b) limited access to major markets due to a dearth of marketing information systems; c) the imposition of unfair conditions on small-scale farmers by intermediaries; d) inadequate production and marketing infrastructure; e) lack of effective incentives and financial/market instruments to promote sustainable production and strengthen links to sustainable value chains; and f) insufficient international value chain actor involvement. Market information systems are unsatisfactory as most of the traders obtain price information informally through contacts with other markets.

In general, the coffee and other staple crops value chains are not well established to allow resource-poor farmers to improve their competitiveness and incomes. Moreover, the services to improve farm productivity are expensive and credit conditions are not attractive for farmers to secure loans[11]. The few market incentives for sustainable agriculture are characterized by weak market linkages, little understanding of alternative value chains and market demand, insufficient knowledge of crop requirements, and weak access to private sector actors to enable partnerships for scaling up. At the same time, mechanisms for knowledge generation and exchange on value addition and market linkages, lessons and best practices between farmers are non-existent or weak and need external facilitation. Crop-specific (e.g. coffee, banana, beans, Irish potato) strategies and partnerships between private and/or public entities will enable and sustain smallholder production that is secured through a landscape strategy that involves integrated management of the respective value chains.

Barrier 3: Inadequate skills and technologies for Sustainable Land Management leading to deforestation, forest and land degradation, biodiversity loss and worsening climate change impacts.

Despite the progress made in research and technology related to land management in Uganda, there are clear indications of technology and knowledge gaps and barriers to adoption of SLM related practices. One of the constraints is lack of expertise/low capacity in extension services for land management even at institutional level, which can be partly attributed to low investment in capacity building and funding for SLM. The problem is aggravated by low levels of awareness and understanding among land users about the environmental impacts of land degradation and its relationship to poverty and decline in household incomes. Lack of economic incentives such as payment for ecosystem services is a barrier to investing in high capital and labor demanding SLM technologies, such as soil and water conservation technologies, which affects the levels of investment in SLM related activities. A combination of these barriers manifest in unsustainable land management practices, leading to deforestation, forest and land degradation, biodiversity loss and worsening climate change impacts. The major predicament for Uganda is how to preserve the natural resource base that supports agriculture by having ecologically representative and viable landscape management practices to provide adequate and nutritious food, and increase household incomes.

Mt. Elgon landscape's remaining forests and wetlands are threatened by encroachment driven by agricultural expansion, overharvesting of forest products and inappropriate agricultural practices, compounded by effects of climate change. There is loss of biodiversity at the ecosystem level, where habitats, species, and ecosystem services have steadily diminished or declined in quality, weakening the fabric of ecological processes (including avoided GHG emissions) and prospects of sustainable economic growth[12]. Many areas in the Mt. Elgon landscape are affected by land degradation and experience soil loss, deforestation and forest degradation, with accompanying loss of carbon stocks.[13] Unsustainable land management practices, therefore, are a major cause of land degradation.

Barrier 4: Inadequate knowledge on Integrated Land Management approaches at landscape, national and regional levels

There is significant knowledge and skills gap on the state of integrated landscape management approaches at the national and regional levels in Uganda. In the Mt. Elgon landscape, documentation of best practices and lessons learned are sparse, poorly maintained and/or collected with inadequate technical expertise, resulting in incomplete records and of poor quality[14]. Information on trends, analyses, human livelihoods, resource use, climate change impact, habitat status, best practices and lessons learned is not usually documented. This is compounded by lack of related decision-support and communication tools and insufficient data sharing across sectors (such as agriculture, environment, gender, etc.), on national, regional or landscape issues that are of common interest. There are very weak and inadequate coordination arrangements of programmes between government, private sector and civil society due to diversity of funding mechanisms, poor communication and inadequate consultations. The weakness of the information and knowledge base needed for planning and decision making has, therefore, hampered effective institutional performance. Thus, there is need to ensure a resilient Mt. Elgon landscape across all sectors through gender-responsive actions guided by knowledge, technical capacity and information shared on best practices.

1.2. Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

1.2.1. *Baseline scenario*

Uganda has adopted enabling policy and legal frameworks that provide a conducive environment for the implementation and success of integrated landscape management approaches necessary for improvement of livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. However, high human population density, unsustainable land management practices are prevalent in the Mt. Elgon landscape, resulting in soil fertility decline, increased GHG emissions and reduced adaptation capacities at the local level. This is compounded by the absence of adequate institutional and governance systems leading to unsustainable agricultural practices and inadequate value and supply chains. The current value chains, especially for coffee and staple crops such as maize, bananas and Irish potato, are unresponsive to the needs of resource-poor farmers and do not provide them with efficient market linkages. This in turn has resulted in unsustainable farming practices leading to low agricultural productivity and negative climate change impacts. The major challenge is how to preserve the natural resource base that supports agriculture by having ecologically representative and viable landscape management practices so as to provide adequate and nutritious food and increased household incomes. Moreover, there is a big knowledge and skills gap on the state of integrated landscape management approaches at the national and regional levels in Uganda. The above situation can be categorized into four major areas, which form the four components of intervention by this project.

The Mt. Elgon landscape comprises 127,900 ha of protected areas, including national park and forest reserves. In the Mt. Elgon landscape, forests can be divided into natural forests and woodlots. In addition, farmers integrate trees with crops on farm. The high increase in human population has, however, resulted in encroachment on natural forests leading to significant loss of tree cover. As a result, natural forests only remain in the upper slope areas that fall within the Mt. Elgon National Park. Despite considerable efforts to protect biodiversity in Mt. Elgon National Park and forest reserves in the Mt. Elgon landscape, alarming encroachment is reported. Besides having inadequate dimensions, most of the forest reserves are found on the agricultural landscape, and existing buffer zones around Mt. Elgon National Park have been encroached upon. In most areas, remnants of natural forests and natural vegetation remain outside the National Park. Most of the natural forests have been cleared to open up more land for agriculture as a result of high human population pressure. Due to high encroachment, only 1,000 ha in the Mt Elgon landscape outside the national park are under improved management for biodiversity conservation and provision of ecosystem services. As such, only 1,000,000 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) emissions are being avoided in the Mt Elgon landscape.

The Mt. Elgon landscape supports over 4 million people who are highly dependent on agriculture and natural resources for economic growth and subsistence. Current livelihood systems are primarily dependent on intensive agricultural production as evident from the vast patchwork of crop gardens that

characterize much of the landscape. Ultimately, because of the ever-increasing human population, farmers may become more dependent on expansion of croplands at the expense of biodiversity conservation on the agricultural landscapes. The fate of the Mt. Elgon landscape is, therefore, inextricably linked to the broader landscape context, including how the surrounding agricultural matrix is designed and managed. However, there is a glaring lack of an integrated landscape management approach that would involve the strengthening of institutional and governance systems and implementation of an integrated landscape plan.

Although the respective sectors and local governments in the Mt. Elgon landscape are implementing their respective development plans and budgets, Integrated Landscape Management approaches and biodiversity conservation are insufficiently mainstreamed into these plans and budgets. Besides, all the district local governments in the Mt. Elgon landscape are using outdated information on land use and vulnerability to climate change for planning purposes. Moreover, the land management plans that are currently being implemented were not developed through participatory processes. As a result, the land management plans lack full local ownership, acceptability and strategies for addressing barriers, specifically those that hinder participation of women in land management. The inadequacy in participatory planning and gender inequalities may be due to weak coordination and collective action as well as inadequate technical capacities among existing structures/institutions. This has resulted in inadequate information, weak governance, law enforcement and compliance for improved regulatory environment in the nine district local governments in the Mt Elgon landscape.

Mt. Elgon is exposed to various forms of environmental hazards. These limit the provision of ecosystem goods and services from the landscape. Nevertheless, Mt. Elgon ecosystem remains an important watershed that nourishes a vast array of rivers and maintains water quality, quantity and evenness of flow due to its varied vegetation types and altitudes. It receives large amounts of rainfall, which is of critical importance for its vegetation and the surrounding farming communities. The mountain is the main catchment for Lake Kyoga via the Mpologoma River. Water from the mountain then flows into the Nile River and thus contributes to water supplies further downstream into Sudan, Egypt and finally to the Mediterranean Sea. Elgon landscape is exposed to various forms of environmental hazards which limit the provision of ecosystem goods and services.

Climate has a significant bearing on the natural processes as well as the manner in which humans interact with the environment and access ecosystem services. The climate of the Mount Elgon landscape is highly variable and can be described as humid subtropical. The region is dominated by seasonally alternating moist south-westerly and dry north-easterly air streams, giving it a mean annual air temperature of about 23° C; with an average minimum and maximum temperatures of 15° C and 28° C, respectively. Temperatures in the Mt. Elgon region are influenced by altitude. Higher altitude areas are much cooler than low altitude areas. Even within the low-lying plains, there are observable differences in temperatures. Mount Elgon experiences intense dry spells from December to February. The warmest months are January, February and March and the coolest are July and August[15].

Rainfall also varies with altitude; the upper slopes receive relatively more rain than the lower-lying areas. Like most parts of Uganda, rainfall in the Mt. Elgon landscape is bimodal, with the first and second rains occurring in March-May and August/October respectively. Noticeably, bimodality is not markedly clear as some rain still occurs between the two peaks. The onset and cessation of rainfall months are March and December respectively. The mean annual precipitation is around 1500 mm, falling in a weak bi-modal pattern. The rainfall differences are mostly influenced by orographic conditions, altitude, and location[16].

Given that agricultural activity in the Mt. Elgon region is strongly weather-dependent, changes in climate are likely to have significant effects not only on its nature, but also its contribution to people's livelihood. Several climate predictions derived from global circulation models (GCMS) which have been used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), are available that predict future

scenarios. One such model is the Coupled Global Climate Model (CGCM3) of the Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis[17],[18]. Climate change data for the Mt. Elgon landscape based on the CGCM3.1 model shows an increase in temperature of 0.5-0.6° C for the next 20 to 50 years. Rainfall will also increase by 18.7 mm over the next 20 years. In terms of seasonality, the present drier months of June, July and August are expected to receive even lesser rainfall (with reductions of up to 6 mm in the 2020-2039 prediction and 10.9 mm in the 2040-2059 model).

The main land use on the mountain slopes is subsistence crop cultivation by local communities who derive their livelihoods from livestock and other activities such as beekeeping, tree harvesting and poultry. The majority of the population is poor and illiterate and is not exposed to improved technologies that would enhance productivity and resilience to climate change effects. Agricultural production is oriented towards food crops (millet, sorghum, groundnuts, cassava, sweet potatoes, beans and Irish potatoes), cash crops (cotton and coffee), fruits (passion fruits), and an assortment of vegetables (e.g. tomatoes, onions and cabbages). Although the traditional cash crops are coffee and cotton, every crop has become a cash crop. Despite the shortage of grazing land, livestock rearing is considered the most reliable and lucrative economic activity[19].

Farmlands on the upper slopes are areas of intensive farming characterized by gardens of coffee, bananas, Irish potatoes and beans. Arabica coffee gardens situated on the lower slopes are characterized by a relatively high density of shade trees like *Cordia africana* and *Albizzia coriaria* which contrasts markedly with those on the upper slopes. There is increased encroachment on natural forests leading to significant loss of tree cover as a result of the high increase in the human population. Natural forests, therefore, only remain in the upslope areas where they fall within the Mt. Elgon National Park. Middle slope and downslope locations depict the highest deforestation arising out of increasing human population and rising demand for tree resources and agricultural land. Generally, forest cover in the region has significantly reduced over the last decade; a trend largely attributed to the expansion of farmlands into previously forested areas.

Most wetlands in the region have undergone degradation and are almost depleted due to agriculture (i.e. growing of vegetables, paddy rice, yams and sugarcanes) especially during the dry season. In the low-lying wetland areas, rice is fast emerging as a cash crop. Rivers such as Manafwa, Bukwo, Atari, Sironko, Namatale, Ngenge, Kaptakwoi and Muyembe have been degraded by cultivation of especially maize, bananas, coffee and other horticultural crops (cabbages, onions, tomatoes, Irish potatoes) up to river banks leading to soil erosion and siltation. Indeed, crop farming in wetlands was identified by stakeholders as the major cause of siltation and flooding of rivers. Grazers and farmers compete for the limited water from the wetlands during drought and this is a major source of wrangles. Other drivers of wetland degradation are livestock rearing, removal of craft materials and extraction of herbal medicines.

The region experiences extensive impacts of land degradation in the form of loss of tree cover, severe erosion, increasingly frequent occurrence of landslides and excessive soil nutrient depletion with accompanying loss of carbon stocks (see Table 1). From data available on Trends-Earth for a period of only two years (2018 to 2020), except for gains realized in tree covered areas, mainly Mt. Elgon National Park), there has been a net downward trend in soil carbon stocks in grasslands (-9.20%), croplands (-4.27%) and wetlands (-0.93%). Up to 95,740 ha (22.77%) of the Mt. Elgon landscape are considered degraded, 182,262 ha (42.62%) are considered as stable while 143,531 ha (34.58%) are considered as improved (Table 2). The remaining forests and wetlands within the Mt. Elgon landscape are threatened by encroachment caused by agricultural expansion, overharvesting of forest products and inappropriate agricultural practices, compounded by effects of climate variability and change. The biodiversity has steadily declined at the ecosystem level, where habitats, species assemblages, and natural processes have drastically diminished and degraded in quality, thus weakening the fabric of ecological processes and curtailing prospects of sustainable economic growth. In addition to the dense population, the high intensity of zero grazed cattle population puts pressure on the resources leading to degradation and increased enteric cattle-based greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Table 4. Soil Carbon Stocks for the Mt. Elgon Landscape 2018 - 2020[20]

Land cover class	Soil organic carbon (tons) 2018	Soil organic carbon (tons) 2020	Change in soil organic carbon	
			Tons	percent
Tree-covered areas	23,351,479	25,534,051	2,182,571	9.35%
Grasslands	6,114,272	5,551,849	-562,423	-9.20%
Croplands	18,004,307	17,235,277	-769,030	-4.27%
Wetlands	356,445	353,138	-3,307	-0.93%
Artificial areas	1,589	51,908	50,319	3166.66%
	47,828,092	48,726,223	898,130	

Table 2: Status of land cover degradation in the Mt. Elgon landscape by land cover type[21]

Land cover class	Degraded (22.77%)			Stable (42.62%)	Improved (34.58%)	Total*
	<i>Declining</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Stressed</i>	<i>Stable</i>	<i>Increasing</i>	
	Reverse: Restoration or Rehabilitation	Reduced rate of degradation		Prevent: avoid land degradation		
Tree-covered areas	1,248	5,462	13,605	96,042	39,995	156,352
Grasslands	7,255	16,186	9,124	13,921	31,007	77,493
Croplands	3,029	8,677	29,607	71,157	71,282	183,752
Wetlands	0	143	143	1,142	1,247	2,675
Artificial areas	6	6	6	0	0	18
Total	11,538	30,474	52,485	182,262	143,531	420,290

*A total of 93 ha are not included above due to no data in some areas

The Mt Elgon landscape which is particularly famous for Arabica coffee is a priority landscape for sustainable coffee production systems. This mountain landscape is a food basket supporting a population of approximately four million people growing at 3.5% per year with productive yet vulnerable resources.

Unsustainable agricultural production practices and unresponsive value chains, especially for key crops such as coffee, maize, banana, Irish potato, are recipes for land degradation, reduced livelihoods and food insecurity for small and medium scale smallholder farmers. Although coffee, maize, banana and Irish potato are high-value focus commodities for alleviating food and nutrition insecurity and enhancing income, there is inadequate impactful investment in their value chains. Usually, production is emphasized at the expense of processing and marketing. The existing incentives for production and marketing of coffee and staple crops benefit few beneficiaries. At the production level, there is little emphasis on increasing female participation, yet women are the main hewers and workers of the land. As a result, the existing coffee and food crop (maize, banana and Irish potato) value chains are still weak. Although the respective value chains range from researchers, seed suppliers, nursery operators,

farmers, traders, processors to buyers abroad and retail markets, there is still need to provide technical capacity for these actors to participate in the coffee and food crop value chain.

Reconciling farming and biodiversity conservation and responding to the immediate threats of biodiversity loss, forest and land degradation and unsustainable farming practices that increase climate change impacts require extensive knowledge generation, sharing, learning and scaling up among stakeholders. Although there have been some efforts to understand land use management in the Mt. Elgon landscape, the best practices and lessons learned have been barely disseminated to all stakeholders. As such, there is a significant knowledge and skills gap on Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) due to limited documentation and sharing of best practices and lessons learned to inform uptake of ILM practices. Moreover, the Mt. Elgon multi-stakeholder forum exists to champion the sharing and upscaling of best practices and lessons at landscape level, although this institution alone is not adequate and is further hampered by the monitoring and evaluation systems which do not specifically track ILM implementation. This, therefore, hampers planning and critical decision-making which and, in turn, renders scaling up sustainable land management practices ineffective.

1.2.2. Associated baseline projects

In 2014, Uganda committed to restore 2.5 Million Ha of forest through Agroforestry, woodlots and natural regeneration, as a contribution to the Bonn Challenge and linked to the AFR100. The AFR100 is a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes across Africa into restoration by 2030. The initiative contributes to the achievement of domestic environment and development commitments, the Bonn Challenge and Land Degradation Neutrality target-setting process, among other targets. AFR100 contributes to the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI) and complements the African Landscapes Action Plan (ALAP) and the broader Climate Change, Biodiversity and Land Degradation (LDBA) program of the African Union. The initiative connects political partners ? participating African nations ? with technical and financial support to scale up restoration on the ground and capture associated benefits for food security, climate change resilience and poverty alleviation. To date, 30 African nations have signed onto AFR100 and committed a combined 126 million hectares of land to be restored. Financial and technical partners support partner countries to assess restoration opportunities, develop strategies and accelerate implementation on the ground.

The Government of Uganda is operationalizing catchment-based integrated water resource management (IWRM), including catchment restoration throughout the country (\$3.76 million). Other government programmes include (i) Enhancing biodiversity in agricultural land, ecological connectivity and REDD+ implementation (\$0.5 million); (ii) Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Project Phase II (FIEFOC II) (\$6.13 million); (iii) Trees for Food Security (\$675,000) and (iv) Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda (\$24.1 million). In the medium and long term, Uganda designed a Forest Investment Programme (FIP) that was endorsed by the Forest Investment Programme Sub-Committee of Climate Change Investment Fund in June 2017. Uganda's FIP will be implemented through three investment projects (IP): (a) IP1: Climate Resilient Landscapes, Integrated Catchment Management and Nature Based Tourism in Uganda's Albertine Rift in the Albertine Water Management Zone (WMZ); (b) IP2: Climate Resilient Landscapes, Integrated Catchment Management and Nature Based Tourism in Uganda's Lake Kyoga and Upper Nile WMZ and (c) IP3: Strengthening capacity for forestry governance and policy implementation.

Under the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Government has developed the Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP) (2015/16 to 2019/20) - a flagship plan for investment and development of the agriculture sector aligned to the priorities in the National Development Plan (NDP) III. Uganda's ASSP priority sector investments focus on sustainable agriculture and the on-going and planned investments include (i) Value chain innovation platforms for coffee, dairy and honey (\$675,000); (ii) Agriculture cluster development project targeting maize and coffee (\$17.7 million); (iii) Enhancing Africa Green Economy through Eco Geographical Indication for

Coffee project (\$2.1 million); (iv) Coffee extension support, certification and quality assurance (\$70,000); (v) Sustainable Land Management promotion (\$1.6 million).

In 2013, the Government of Uganda launched the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) as an intervention to efficiently facilitate national socio-economic transformation, with a focus on raising household incomes and wealth creation by transforming subsistence farmers into commercial farmers to end poverty. In addition, the government of Uganda is implementing the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF3) (2016 – 2021) to build resilience of the poor and vulnerable communities; the Agriculture Cluster Development Project (ACDP) (2018 – 2022) to raise on-farm productivity, production and marketable volumes of selected agricultural commodities; and the Agricultural Technology and Agribusiness Advisory Services (ATAAS) project (2011 – 2018) to provide options for sustainable land management. In addition, several district-funded environment management activities have been implemented during the 2019/2020 fiscal year. These include establishment of small irrigation facilities in Bududa district and establishment of tree nursery beds and distribution of tree seedlings in Bududa Town Council. Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) is implementing a project on Soil management Practices (2018 – 2020) to create a transitional in-house capacity to monitor soil fertility and help revive coffee productivity in the Mt. Elgon region. Between 2015 and 2019, the National Forestry Resources Research Institute (NaFORRI), together with Makerere University and World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) implemented the Value Chain Innovation Platform for Food Security (VIP4FS) project that focused on (i) identifying institutional drivers and trade-offs for market intensification, and (ii) establishing value chain initiatives and opportunities for the meaningful participation of women and other disadvantaged groups in Kapchorwa and Manafwa districts.

Among the civil society organizations, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) implemented the project – ‘Scaling Up Mountain Ecosystem-based Adaptation: Building evidence, replicating success, and informing policy’ in 2019 in Kapchorwa district to consolidate and replicate mountain Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EBA) measures as means of enhancing the adaptive capacity for communities in Atari-Kaptakwoi and Sipi-Chebonet micro catchments in Kapchorwa district. Mt. Elgon Tree Growing Enterprises Limited (METGE) is currently (2018 – to-date) implementing a ‘Tree Planting Project’ in Bulambuli, Namisindwa, Bududa, and Sironko districts. The aim is to plant 25 million trees in the region and contribute to the mitigation of the effects of climate change through reducing floods and soil erosion risks.

Other projects that will provide useful lessons to the proposed project include:

a) *The GEFID 490 – Kibale Forest Wild Coffee Project? (USD 4,150,000).* This project assisted Uganda in implementing its national biodiversity strategy and action plan by helping maintain biodiversity in the landscape mosaics beyond the boundaries of protected areas of global importance by regulating uncontrolled coffee harvesting, confining it to buffer zones and ensuring that all activities in these areas reflect best practices for sustainable management of tropical humid forest ecosystems. The project sought to seek to make the whole system financially self-sustainable through a funding channel that gives villages an incentive to become partners of Kibale National Park for conserving the globally important biodiversity of Kibale Forest. However, during the course of this GEF funding, the project did not achieve its primary objective, which was the generation of income from the sale of wild coffee blends, and the allocation of those funds to biodiversity conservation, and sustainable community development. Following an evaluation of the coffee plants in the forest, very little coffee was available. While a commodity model approach would have required the sale of limited quantities of coffee for as much money as possible to generate sufficient income for biodiversity conservation, and community development programs, its price would have turned sales an unlikely objective. These lessons question

the competitive advantage of the commodity's product quality, the importance of product quantity, and whether certification actually offers a competitive advantage (AGRIS, 2012; ISBN: 0-8213-5441-8). This project will address some of the major barriers that led to the failure of the Kibale Forest Wild Coffee Project such as quality and certification.

b) *The GEFID 3683 ?Integrated Landscape Management for Improved Livelihoods and Ecosystem Resilience in Mount Elgon? (USD 9,250,320).* Implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and the District Local Governments of Mbale, Manafwa and Bulambuli. This project focused on enhancing enabling environment between sectors in support of SLM, Integrated Land Management Plans development and implementation; demonstrating good management practices in the wider landscape and disseminating information on INRM technologies and good practice as well as financial resource base diversification. The aim was GHG emissions avoidance and carbon sequestration, and restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest and non-forests lands, including peatlands) and encouragement of sustainable forest and non-forest lands under good management practices. However, this project was limited in scope as it covered only 3 out of the 9 districts in the Mt. Elgon Landscape and there was very limited private sector involvement. The current project addresses these challenges by involving all the 9 districts in the Mt. Elgon Landscape and bringing in the private sector on board.

c) *The GEFID 5718 ?Developing an Experimental Methodology for Testing the Effectiveness of Payments for Ecosystem Services to Enhance Conservation in Productive Landscapes in Uganda? (USD 1,232,400).* This project aimed at developing an experimental methodology for testing the effectiveness of PES as a viable means for financing and procuring biodiversity conservation outside protected areas using an experimental methodology focusing on private and community forests between the Budongo and Bugoma forest reserves in Hoima District, Western Uganda. Implementation of the PES scheme begun in July 2011 and the project has been able to engage 342 PFOs who are the beneficiaries of the PES scheme. The scheme provided an annual payment of USD 35/ha in exchange to regulated forest use and halting deforestation. Up to 1,590 ha of forest were restored through the PES scheme with the 342 PFOs. Lessons learned where that, providing incentives to PFOs is proving a success in halting further loss of forests on private land. However, the project is encountered some challenges and key among these is the sustainability of the project beyond April 2014 when the GEF funding ended, logistics for project management and up-scaling the PES scheme to other PFOs. Nonetheless, the project was very successful in piloting an innovative methodology, the Randomized Control Trial (RCT) to assess the effectiveness of the project intervention in raising awareness and changing local community attitudes towards SLM, and the extent of the cause-effect relation between the intervention and the outcome. This project will use these lessons, and will apply the RCT tool to collect and document level of awareness of communities on the benefits of ecosystem restoration with a view to change mindsets on benefits of ecosystem restoration and ecosystem services.

d) The GEFID 10432, ?Reviewing High Quality Coffee to stimulate climate adaptation in smallholder farming communities? under preparation by IUCN and Nespresso (GEF USD 1,146,790 and co-financing USD 1,900,393) under the GEF/LDCF Challenge Programme.. Through this project, Nespresso expects to: (i) Directly benefit 8,000 farmers and their families by 2025, with a targeting participation rate of at least 35% young farmers and women; (ii) Double the available funding by establishing partnerships by 2025; (iii) Create significant biodiversity impacts, including the planting of over 1 million agroforestry trees on farms, decreasing emissions of the program towards zero, and addressing locally relevant adaptation issues such as access to clean drinking water; (iv) Provide farmers access to climate resilience tools such as crop insurance and payments for environmental services, as well as social safety nets such as new pension programs. This project will work in close collaboration with Nespresso to achieve these activities as an entry point for scaling up the model for new premium coffee markets. The potential areas of collaboration and synergies between the two projects in the Mt. Elgon landscape are in: (i) Training of at least 8,000 farmers on improved and climate smart practices, such as agroforestry. (ii) Promotion of the uptake of resilient farming practices on at least 8,000 hectares of land. (iii) Creating at least 2 new business opportunities for rural entrepreneurs and MSMEs related to on-farm diversification and coffee plant nurseries in Mt. Elgon; ((iv) Creating synergies and leveraging with at least 2 partnerships to support climate adaptation initiatives with partners, with whom Nespresso already have a relationship; and (v) Enabling access to climate adaptation security schemes / technologies such as micro-insurance, weather forecasting and savings products.

Within the Mt. Elgon landscape, several private sector institutions (e.g. Bugisu Cooperative Union, Sebei Elgon Cooperative Union, Kalaa Mugosi Women Empowerment Ltd, Mt. Elgon Agroforestry Communities Coop Enterprise Ltd and Bushika Integrated Area Cooperative Enterprise Ltd) are important in implementing socio-economic interventions for local livelihoods and will be important stakeholders in the project. These private sector players provide services such as coffee processing and sale, thereby offering a ready market for coffee farmers and promote livelihood improvement. Additionally, given their experience in the region, the private sector also support capacity building of smallholder farmers in coffee and food crops production. The private sector also support increased funding for sustainable coffee production through the establishment of credit financing mechanisms.

At the transboundary level, this project will have very strong linkages with the GEF-7 FOLUR Child project ?Integrated Landscape Management for conservation and restoration of the Mt. Elgon Ecosystem in Western Kenya? which will be implemented in Bungoma and Trans-Zoia Counties in the Mt. Elgon ecosystem. Just like Uganda, the Kenya FOLUR child project intends to promote sustainable, integrated management of Mt. Elgon landscape through the development of inclusive responsible coffee value chain and sustainable staple food production systems. Since these two FOLUR child projects aim to address the drivers of the negative outcomes and governance barriers to achieving secure ecosystems and livelihoods in a critical and fragile transboundary ecosystem, there will be many experiences and lessons to share across the border.

The proposed Uganda FOLUR child project will leverage and build on these past and on-going investments by adopting good practices, replicating successful approaches, drawing on existing expertise and integrating with existing Government-led coordination and project implementation arrangements. For the example, a web-based tool ?Interactive Suitable Tree Species Selection and Management Tool for East Africa? consisting of 61 tree species encountered in the T4FS study sites in the Mt. Elgon landscape has been developed. It demonstrates a systems approach to research in development and is a collation of tree species encountered through various studies namely: tree diversity, baseline studies, seed and seedling systems surveys, local knowledge and Land Degradation

Surveillance Framework. The database enables the user to easily access information either based on tree species, their agro-ecological zone suitability, products, environmental services, origin (native or exotic) and niche. The tool also provides specific details on the trees' biophysical growth conditions and management requirements as well as links to other agroforestry databases.[22] On its part, the VIP4FS project found that in the Elgon landscape, land size and family size affected adoption decisions and significantly affect the adoption of agroforestry by women and youths. Using agroforestry as an opportunity to undo the effects of deforestation and climate change in the Elgon landscape, the project (VIP4FS) identified that incentives such as credit schemes and commercial farmer-owned tree nurseries are some of the incentives that greatly influenced the adoption of agroforestry interventions. This GEF project will therefore leverage build and expand on such experiences and lessons from previous projects.

1.3. Proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

The project will undertake integrated landscape management and restoration of degraded forests and marginal lands in the Mt. Elgon landscape. The project interventions will cover the districts of Bududa, Bukwo, Bulambuli, Kapchorwa, Kween, Manafwa, Mbale, Namisindwa and Sironko. The project's focus is to undertake an integrated land use management planning process, including mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into the agricultural production landscape. Commodity production systems, specifically for coffee and staple food crops (maize, beans, bananas, Irish potato), managed by farmers and groups, will be supported to meet third-party certification standards, while the capacity of smallholder farmers will be built and technical backstopping provided. Improved tree cover will be achieved through agroforestry practices, promoting indigenous trees and planting grass species within farmlands. The land will, therefore, be placed under sustainable land management practices through provision of support to deforestation-free commodities and high-value conservation forest loss avoided. Climate-smart agriculture in the landscape will be promoted for food security, increased incomes and restored landscapes. This will be achieved through the following project components, outcomes and outputs:

Component 1: Integrated Mt. Elgon Landscape Management System and institutional frameworks and improved governance. Total Cost: USD 18,211,021 (GEF/TF: USD 967,500; Co-financing: USD 17,243,521)

This component aims to: 1) reconcile biodiversity conservation with forest and land degradation, climate change impacts and unsustainable farming practices that increase biodiversity loss and climate change impacts with biodiversity conservation, and 2) strengthen the landscape natural resources governance framework. Under this component, the project will support the mainstreaming of mitigation and adaptation strategies/plans into national and district development plans, as well as integrated landscape management (ILM) approaches in the climate change adaptation and mitigation policies of the forestry, land and agriculture sectors, through Outcome 1.1 (Integrated landscape approaches adopted at landscape and national level). This component will also help strengthen institutional and organizational capabilities of sub-national and national institutions for the implementation of ILM and SLM strategies/plans in the Mt. Elgon Landscape through Outcome 1.2: Strengthened institutional and governance systems for implementation of the integrated Landscape plan.

The strengthening of institutional and governance systems for implementation of integrated landscape plan is expected to be realized through strengthening the capacity of extension workers, key local government leaders and existing structures like Mt Elgon Ecosystem Stakeholder Forum (MEESF) in governance, law enforcement and compliance monitoring to improve the regulatory environment including standards like certification. Strengthened institutional frameworks will also uphold tenure rights and security of land rights holders, incentivize and help coordination of SLM practices and activities; encourage multi-stakeholder participation and interactions at local, national and international levels in order to create synergies and leverages. Furthermore, these governance frameworks, which include Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, traditional institutions, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Private Sector Organizations (PSOs) and Small and Medium Enterprises

(SMEs), at local, national and regional levels, will enable collaborative design and implementation of SLM practices within the context of gender equity and cost- effectiveness.

Outcome 1.1: Integrated landscape approaches adopted at Landscape and National Level

Adoption and implementation of integrated landscape management approaches can achieve sustainable and resilient landscapes in which conservation, and agricultural production objectives are accomplished in mutually reinforcing ways by conserving the diversity of fauna and flora; maintaining intact habitats, ecological communities, and ecosystem functions; buffering existing protected areas; maintaining landscape connectivity; and retaining landscape resilience to disturbance and climate change. Integrated landscape approaches in the Mt. Elgon landscape are planned because of land resource degradation driven by inappropriate land use and climate change related effects. The distribution and management of the landscape mosaic can only be improved to achieve multi-functionality through implementing integrated landscape approaches and strengthening a coalition of stakeholders to govern and lead the landscape initiatives. To guide this process, the project will update information on land use and vulnerability to climate change in the Mt. Elgon landscape to inform the land use participatory planning process in all the nine District Local Governments (DLGs) of the region (Output 1.1.1) and facilitate the mainstreaming of Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) approaches and biodiversity conservation into District Development Plans (DPPs) and budgets with 510,000 ha of agricultural land put under SLM (Output 1.1.2) and a Sustainable Integrated Land Management plan developed through participatory processes and biodiversity conservation mainstreamed into production practices (Output 1.1.3). In this process, at least five barriers hindering participation of women in ILM will be broken through the implementation of strategies and actions that are in tandem with the Uganda Gender Policy (2007) and priority action areas mainstreamed in the ILM approaches at the landscape and national levels (Output 1.1.4).

Output 1.1.1: Information on land use and vulnerability to climate change impacts of the Mt. Elgon landscape to inform land use management planning updated

Stakeholder consultations using tools such as Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) will be conducted to identify and document information for sustainable land management planning. Information about ecosystems (water, forests, pasture land, agricultural land, wetlands, rivers, etc.), local livelihoods, strengths and weaknesses (gaps) of local government development plans on land use planning, climate change, etc. will be collected to guide the integrated landscape management planning process. This information will also be a starting point for 1) identifying suitable adaptation and resilience measures that reduce vulnerability, increase adaptive capacities and decrease sensitivity to climate variability and change; 2) developing indicators for tracking changes in climate change vulnerability over time; 3) monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of adaptation/resilience measures, and 4) generating additional knowledge on the effectiveness of the adaptation/resilience measures applied.

The key aspects of the information to be gathered will include: (i) forest, grassland, and wetland coverage and condition using standardized methodologies as a proxy for ecosystem service provisioning related to specific catchment management measures; (ii) impacts of catchment management interventions on ecosystem services; (iii) socio-economic baseline assessment and establishing environmental, social, and economic baselines using existing or new data according to standard criteria; (iv) management measures within the Mt. Elgon Landscape for possible upscaling based on their potential to provide evidence of medium to long-term effectiveness; (v) priority mitigation/adaptation measures including adaptive solutions to be up- and out-scaled for implementation; and (vi) putting in place an effective, sustainable and interactive M&E system for tracking catchment management measures against baseline indicators.

Biophysical and socio-economic data and information will be identified and compiled from relevant institutions and libraries including cloud-based sources. The assessment of the adequacy of compiled data and information will be based on availability, source, spatial scale/ / resolution and readiness for use. Data gaps (and measures to address them) will be identified by use of key informants and other data sources as well as primary data collection. The data will be checked for adequacy and updated in

terms of scale, resolution, format and validity in terms of dates. A GIS- based map will be generated to give direction on where the most effort should be directed at in order to maximize opportunities of investments in SLM aimed at avoidance, reduction and reversal of land degradation and for scaling up. The following spatial, biophysical and socio-economic data / information will be compiled for synthesis and to fill the gaps: risk, vulnerability, impact and adaptation assessment, weather and climate data/information (min ? max rainfall, hydrology, min-max temperature, length of growing season, potential evapotranspiration), soil health, soil erosion, land condition (land cover, productivity and soil carbon), pasture resources, geology, landforms, digital elevation model and slope; land-use, water quality and quantity, issues and challenges, climate variability and change risk, vulnerabilities, impact and restoration and mitigation/adaptation investment opportunities needed to improve resilience and conditions within the Mt. Elgon ecosystem.

Particular attention will be paid to the likely impacts of climate variability and change. Detailed information on the existing situation will be generated through two complementary approaches: 1) A participatory stakeholder land resource assessment; 2) A science-based expert assessment to gather detailed technical information and conducting of geospatial analysis/model to support suitability assessment, and vulnerability assessment and modeling to strengthen climate and land use plans. Expert-led assessment will be based on analysis of climate models and application of GIS, available data and documents, semi-structured qualitative interviews, and on-site observations and field transects. The degree of ecosystem degradation will be assessed to allow setting targets to support the planning for land degradation neutrality. The land condition assessment will focus on identifying ?hotspots? to guide the identification of interventions and development of the neutrality mechanism balance sheet. Zoning/stratification will be done using information on land condition to support ILM planning, decision making and monitoring of SLM interventions. Water use, availability, demand and allocation will be modelled and estimated within the ecosystem for the current accounts and reference scenario simulated for irrigation, human consumption, animal needs (domestic and wildlife), tourism, industrial demands and environmental flows.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Conduct a gap analysis of land use and climate change vulnerability in Mt. Elgon
- 2) Conduct a gender responsive participatory stakeholder land resource assessment
- 3) Carry out geospatial modelling and vulnerability assessments focusing on both men and women

Output 1.1.2: A sustainable integrated land management plan for Mt. Elgon landscape developed through participatory processes

The sustainable Integrated Landscape Management Plan (ILMP) for Mt. Elgon landscape will be developed through participatory, multidisciplinary and interactive processes that will result in a resilient and land degradation neutral Mt. Elgon landscape. These participatory processes will be set out in three main steps each of which is divided into several sequential stages that include guidance on what is needed within each step as indicated in the steps below.

Step 1 ? Preparatory Stage with the following key stages: (a) Formation of Core Planning Team (CPT) constituted from IPs and DLGs, (b) Training of the CPT in Integrated landscape management planning approaches, in collaboration with the Global Program, to enhance their capacity to undertake the planning process and do similar works elsewhere well beyond the project cycle, (c) Review of available literature and compiling of secondary data and information to guide the planning process, (d) Defining the Landscape Management Planning Units and Framework and developing tools and setting benchmarks for the land management planning process, (e) Conducting stakeholders analysis and assigning of roles in the implementation of the ILMP planning process, and (f) Field reconnaissance and stakeholder mobilization, constellation and awareness creation.

Step 2 ? Planning and Approval Stage. This stage will involve:

(a) Participatory mapping and situational analysis of the current situation at Parish, Sub-county and District level using local communities and other stakeholders. The analyses will take consideration of

the previous baselines/ assessments already undertaken in some areas of the Mt Elgon landscape, in which case the project will focus on updating or filling the existing gaps.

(b) Land suitability analysis, characterization and zoning of Mt. Elgon landscape based on identified opportunities to provide management alternatives. The FAO Land suitability methodology[23], which takes due consideration of how well the qualities of a land unit match the requirements of a particular form of land use, will be used to assess the suitability of land resources for selected promising land-use types. Land suitability assessment contributes to Integrated Land use planning- an aspect of land management - that will be done in the framework of achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN). The LDN conceptual framework is designed to be applicable to all land uses (i.e., land managed for production ? e.g., agriculture, forestry; for conservation ? e.g., protected areas; and also land occupied by human settlements and infrastructure); and all types of land degradation, across the wide variety of countries? circumstances[24]. As such suitability assessments will look beyond land potential to cover aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem services. LDN is one of those tools and methods for land-use planning that encourages and assist the diverse and often competing users of land resources in selecting land-use and management options that increase their productivity, support sustainable agriculture and food systems, promote governance over land and water resources and meet the needs of society[25]. The suitability assessment will involve: 1) description of land-use types in sufficient detail for subsequent analysis, 2) selection of land qualities and land characteristics to be used in comparisons of land-use requirements with land, 3) mapping of land units (zones) and determination of relevant land characteristics, and qualities, 4) setting limiting values to land-use requirements, to be used for determining class limits for land suitability, taking into account sustainability and the ratio of benefits to inputs, 5) matching land use with land where: i) comparisons are made between land-use requirements with land qualities or characteristics to determine provisional land suitability classes, ii) modifications to land-use types are considered, in order that they become better suited to the land, iii) land improvements that could make the land better suited to the land use are considered, and iv) mapping land suitability for each land-use type.

(c) Environmental, economic and social assessments of different land use/management alternatives/options. Appraisal of alternatives will involve the environmental, economic and social analysis of the effects of, first, individual combinations of land use with land units that have been classed as suitable in physical terms and, second, to alternative combinations of land use that are being considered in the plan. Appraisals will be considered in the following areas:

- *Environmental impact assessment*: soil and water resources, pasture and forest resources, wildlife conservation, resources for tourism and recreation; off-site effects. Furthermore, the potential of interventions to sequester carbon will be assessed in the context of Global Environment Benefits (GEBs).
- *Resilience assessment*: Assessment of the capacity of the system to continue to deliver the same ecosystem services in the face of disturbance will consider the current condition of the land, the adaptive capacity of the land use system, and its likely trajectory under anticipated stressors and shocks.
- *Financial analysis*: Will look at profitability from the farmer?s point of view or other private investor, by comparing the producers' revenues with their costs.
- *Economic analysis*: Economic analysis will look at potential economic consequences to the environment e.g. the benefits of reduced sedimentation.
- *Social impact*: The effects of proposed changes on different groups of people will be analyzed with particular attention given to effects on women, ethnic minorities and the poorest sections of the community.

- (d) Visioning and participatory mapping of the desired future;
- (e) Identification of options for various existing land management constraints and corresponding opportunities for change. Identification of opportunities for change will be based on the planning goals and problem statements and will involve isolation of problems for which solutions will be sought. This will involve generation of a range of options for solving each problem opportunities like the human resource, land resources, improved technology, economic measures, government action; land-use strategies and kinds of production.
- (f) Participatory prioritization of the various land use/management alternatives/options). The planning team will develop realistic options that best meet the needs of production, conservation and sustainability and that minimize conflicts of land use. Options will be developed in terms of: the goals, the strategy pursued to reach these goals, opportunities and problems presented by the people and the land and the finance and other resources available. The problem statements and the alternatives for change will be presented to representatives of the local people, government officials and other interested agencies who will then decide if the goals are attainable; select the priority problems and choose the most promising alternatives for a suitability study, and specify targets.
- (g) Development of Integrated Landscape Management Plan: Decisions on land allocation or land-use recommendation for competing uses will be based on a set of *policy guidelines*, delineated *land units*, and identified, evaluated and appraised *land-use types*. Once the feasibility and acceptability of the options is done the decision to prepare the plan will be made.
- (h) Development of site-specific Community Environment and Climate Change Action Plans (CE and CCAPs): The plans will be developed by the community members, using the information generated from the assessments and analyses to lay out specific tailor-made strategies to address the identified gaps. In addition to laying out strategies, the CEAPs will also indicate the specific roles and responsibilities of the various actors.
- (i) Development of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Framework: The framework will indicate the various indicators to track change and lay out a strategy of joint monitoring by the key stakeholders, as well as a mechanism of ensuring that the monitoring results are used to inform decision making and strengthening of processes; and
- (j) Approval of ILM plans by the 9 DLG Councils for implementation. This will be done following the DLC council approval cycle.

Step 3 - Implementation Stage: This stage will involve: (a) Setting up or/and strengthening of landscape management institutions to implement the ILMP; (b) Catalyzing community action and uptake of the plans through models like the Community Environment Conservation Fund (CECF) and Agreements to incentivize the ILMP implementation; (c) Implementing Priority Nature-Based Solutions of the Management Plan; and (d) Joint Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Establish Core Planning Team comprising of both men and women for participatory Integrated Land Management planning
- 2) Develop a gender responsive sustainable Integrated Landscape Management Plan (ILMP) and Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation framework
- 3) Facilitate approval of the sustainable Integrated Land Management Plan by the District Local Government Councils

Output 1.1.3: Integrated Landscape Management approaches and Biodiversity conservation mainstreamed into district local governments and sectoral development plans and budgets. To ensure effective and efficient integration and mainstreaming of ILM approaches and biodiversity conservation into DLG development and sectoral plans and budgets, and ownership of the process and outcomes by DLGs and the central Government, the project will facilitate the nine DLGs in reviewing their current 5-year District Development Plans (DDPs) following the Government of Uganda Local Government Development Planning Guidelines (2014) developed by the Ministry of Local Government (MLG). This process will take one financial year following the MLG annual planning cycle (Figure 9) and consists of four main stages: (i) Training of Trainers (ToTs) in collaboration with the Global Program; (ii) Consultations, assessment, situational analysis and data collection (ii) Visioning, scenario setting

and DDP review (iii) Approval of revised DDPs that integrate landscape management approaches and biodiversity conservation by District Councils.

The starting point is the training and capacity building of project implementation partners and DLG staff in mainstreaming ILM approaches including planning for LDN, climate change, biodiversity conservation into district and sectoral development plans and budgets and, as Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) and Facilitators of the mainstreaming effort. The trained personnel will then undertake the exercise and also ensure that ILM approaches, climate change, LDN and biodiversity conservation are mainstreamed in the nine DDPs and sectoral plans and budgets. The key personnel targeted for the training as ToTs and champions of ILM approaches, climate change, LDN and biodiversity conservation mainstreaming in each district, include Natural Resources Officers, Environment Officers, Forestry Officers, Water officers, Wetlands Officers, Agricultural Officers, Planning Officers, Land Officers, Physical Planning Officers, Community Development Officers, Production Officers and Veterinary Officers.

Consultations, assessments, situational analyses and data collection will encompass: (i) review of the information contained in the Planning Call Circular; (ii) Local Government performance review including review and identification of strengths and weaknesses of DDPs on integrated landscape management approaches and biodiversity conservation/management; (iii) Review of regional (e.g. East African Community - EAC) and national policy and institutional framework (at national and district level) on biodiversity conservation and management and discussion of the Local Government key development potentials, opportunities, constraints and challenges; and (iv) Identification of key development priorities and targets. To facilitate evidence-based planning and informed discussions during consultations, Local Governments will be facilitated to collect data on (i) The prevailing physical, social and economic characteristics of a Local Government; (ii) Sector development situations focusing on opportunities and potentials for wealth creation and local economic development by each sector; (iii) The key stakeholders (private sector, CSO and development partners) situations and opportunities; (iv) Gender-sensitive landscape management and biodiversity conservation risks and other crosscutting issues; and (v) Any other basic data that is essential in informing the formulation of the Local Government Development Plan (LGDP) strategic direction or its implementation modalities.

Visioning, scenario setting and actual plan review will consist of the following main steps; (i) Situation analysis and identification of development needs and opportunities, (ii) Definition of broad strategic direction of the DDPs, (iii) Conducting risk screening against future scenarios for interventions in landscape management and biodiversity conservation and description of development outcomes, goals, strategies and interventions, (iv) Identification of interventions that support integrated landscape management and biodiversity conservation in LG and sectoral plans and budgets and, (v) Description of the implementation and coordination Plan of the DDP and elaboration of procedures, roles and responsibilities for LGDP; (vi) Guidance on integration and development of a framework of ILM and biodiversity conservation indicators and outputs that are linked to LG, national and sectoral budgets, plans and priorities.

Approval of the respective nine revised DDPs that integrate landscape management approaches and biodiversity conservation will be done by the respective District Local Government Councils through the following steps: (i) Discussion of draft plans by District Executive Committees; (ii) Laying the draft plan before District Councils (DCs) by the Secretaries responsible for finance and /or planning functions and DCs refer the draft plan to the Council Standing Committees for review; (iii) Review of the draft Plan by DC Standing Committees; (iv) Discussion of final amalgamated draft plans by District Executive Committees (DECs); (v) Presentation of the final amalgamated draft plan by the DEC to the District Councils for approval. The final DDPs will then be submitted by the District Chief Administrative Officers to National Planning Authority with copies to the Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, Office of the Prime Minister, Office of the President, the Local Government Finance Commission for integration into national and sectoral budgets, plans and priorities.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Train both men and women within the Project Implementing Partners and District Local Government staff in mainstreaming ILM approaches and biodiversity conservation into district and sectoral development plans and budgets in collaboration with FOLUR Global Platform Project
- 2) Review of district development plans to incorporate gender, ILM and biodiversity conservation approaches
- 3) Facilitate approval of the revised District Development Plans by the District Local Government Councils

Output 1.1.4: Barriers hindering women as well as men from participating in ILM approaches identified and addressed

The project will apply the gender approach in all the four project components. In this regard, the project includes gender outcomes, outputs and indicators to monitor progress towards gender outcomes in the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (Section 6). Targeted activities that address project-specific gender gaps in relation to the identified project outcomes and outputs and indicators will be developed during project implementation. The project will promote timely participation of women as well as men in all project activities through i) income-generating opportunities for female-led households; ii) provision of specific technical assistance for women beneficiaries; iii) enhancing women participation in the creation of local small and medium-scale producers networks; iv) promotion of participation of women in project training, meetings and technical assistance (at least 50% of female community leaders and/or producers); v) mainstreaming a cross-cutting gender approach in the ILM and SLM management strategy; vi) timely dissemination of lessons learned to sex-disaggregated beneficiaries; vii) promotion of women participation in planning and decision-making at District, Sub-county, Parish, Village, community and family levels. Data will be disaggregated by gender to monitor differentiated project impacts, and women producers will be involved and represented in all project activities.

Project-specific gender analyses will be undertaken and a Gender Action Plan (GAP) developed and implemented. The process of developing the GAP will include: (i) Defining the gender groups and their respective perspectives/behaviors towards integrated land management; (ii) Developing the perspective(s)/behavior(s) question(s) for promoting appropriate engendered integrated land management; (iii) Developing questions for the determinants of perception/behavior (susceptibility, severity, action efficacy, social acceptability, self-efficacy, cues for action, divine will, attributes of change) by gender groups in participating in integrated land management; (iv) Conducting Focus Group Discussions or Individual Interviews to profile perceptions by gender groups in ILM and commodity value chains; (v) Performing a barrier analysis based on the results from the Focus Group Discussions or Individual Interviews; and (vi) Designing strategies that address the negative determinants of women participation and promote their participation in ILM approaches and commodity value chain at regional and global levels.

The GAP will identify opportunities for women and men in the design and implementation of project activities, and the project will support implementation of the GAP with an aim to: (a) strengthen access to and control of land, forests, water, and other productive assets and resources for women; (b) increase their participation and leadership in decision-making processes relating to the environment; and (c) ensure that economic benefits coming from the sustainable use of forest resources and restoration efforts are shared equitably between men and women; (d) promote more equitable benefit sharing, and empower both women and men; (e) establish a Gender Platform to assist the project in understanding and achieving gender objectives; (f) identifying training needs, knowledge products, and communication efforts towards increasing the number of commitments and initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality linked to particular commodity value chains and; (g) fill information gaps related to gender-related challenges and opportunities facing smallholders and value chain actors, at regional and global level.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Conduct a Gender Gap Analysis to identify and define gender constraints to participatory Integrated Land Management
- 2) Design and develop a Gender Action Plan to address the identified constraints
- 3) Develop a Gender Platform and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework

Outcome 1.2: Strengthened institutional and governance systems for implementation of the integrated Landscape plan.

Uganda has developed the necessary institutional, policy and legal frameworks for public participation, democratization, accountability and transparency and has put in place most of these elements of governance. However, these institutional and strategic frameworks have inadequacies as reflected by the continued challenges of environmental degradation. Weak and inappropriate natural resource governance systems spur a wide range of problems including declining resource productivity and resilience, resource scarcities, inequitable access that breed conflicts, cause displacements and worsen human vulnerability. The linkage between natural resource management, economic development, poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation and climate change provide an opportunity to bring out the key issues that can help and guide policy makers to take natural resource governance as a holistic way of addressing these concerns. This project will, therefore, strengthen natural resource governance at landscape level to enable equitable LDN outcomes and have empowered resource users at local, landscape and national levels that are to handle natural resources governance issues at the transboundary, regional and global levels.

The project will introduce and promote the use of a Natural Resource Governance Framework (NRGF)[26] that is anchored on norms, institutions and processes that determine how power and responsibilities over natural resources are exercised, how decisions are taken, and how citizens (women, men, indigenous peoples and local communities) participate in and benefit from the management of natural resources. This Governance Model once implemented and actively adhered to will strengthen the institutional and governance systems in the Mt. Elgon Landscape by promoting and ensuring:

- Inclusive decision-making regarding natural resource policies and practices based on the full and effective participation of all relevant actors, with particular attention to the voice and inclusion of rights-holders and groups at risk of marginalization;
- Recognition and respect for tenure rights to lands, resources and waters with particular attention to the customary, collective rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and to women's tenure rights;
- Recognition and respect for diverse cultures and knowledge systems;
- Devolution of decision making to the lowest possible level appropriate to the social and ecological systems being governed, with particular attention to supporting the roles and authority of local communities in natural resource governance;
- Strategic vision, direction and learning desired for sustainable environmental and social ends, and allowing for adaptation in response to learning and changing conditions;
- Coordination and coherence in coordinating set of strategies and management practices;
- Equitable sharing of benefits generated from natural resources by facilitating Resources Actors responsible for natural resource governance with the resources they need to carry out sustainable management and governance activities;
- That actors responsible for or affecting natural resource governance are accountable for their actions and the environmental and social impacts they produce;
- That natural resource-related laws and their application are fair, effective, and protect fundamental rights; and
- That people are able to seek and obtain remedies for grievances and resolve conflicts regarding land and natural resources (access to justice and conflict resolution).

Through the application of the NRGF, a core team of champions at the sub-national level will be trained and equipped to advocate for integrated and all-inclusive natural resource governance, for the benefit of both the people and the ecosystem. The target will include the following upon the

implementation of NRGF; (i) local government leaders; (ii) extension workers; and (iii) district/catchment level structures (Catchment Management Committees

Output 1.2.1: Capacity of extension workers and key local government leaders to manage natural resources within Mt. Elgon landscape strengthened

The purpose of this output is to improve the capacity of stakeholders for evidence-based implementation of climate-smart natural resource management practices for sustainable development in the Mt. Elgon landscape. The current technical capacity amongst DLG technical staff and extension workers in the Mt. Elgon Landscape to implement climate change, LDN, biodiversity conservation, ILM and climate-smart agriculture practices, as well as coffee and staple food crops value chains, is inadequate. In collaboration with the Global Program, the project will therefore deliver on two interconnected, cross-cutting capacity building actions, namely: a) a robust and improved development planning and decision-making system that is guided by continued monitoring and diagnosis of environmental changes and trends within the local, national and global context, and b) enhanced capacities/skills of local, sub-national and national technical staff and political leaders within Mt. Elgon landscape for strategic planning and natural resource management. This will be achieved by conducting a participatory Technical Capacity and Institutional Needs Assessment (TCINA), developing an institutional strengthening Capacity Building Plan (CBP) based on the (TCINA), exchange visits for knowledge and experiential learning, and implementing capacity development initiatives (hands-on training, equipping and re-tooling, etc.) of extension workers and local government leaders.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Conduct a participatory Technical Capacity and Institutional Needs Assessment (TCINA) of extension workers and local government leaders targeting both men and women
- 2) Develop a Capacity Building Plan (CBP) for extension workers and local government leaders based on the (TCINA)
- 3) Build capacity (training, re-tooling, exchange visits) of both men and women extension workers and local government leaders in natural resource management

Output 1.2.2: Existing structures (Mt. Elgon Stakeholder Forum, Catchment Management Committees) strengthened to promote inter-institution coordination and collective action

The Government of Uganda, through the Directorate of Water Resources Management (DWRM), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) is implementing a series of major policy reforms. The reforms include the adoption of the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) through a participatory catchment-based approach to water resources investment planning, development and management. A key feature of the implementation of IWRM is to provide for de-concentrated management of water resources to the local level by forming Catchment Management Committees (CMCs) at Catchment level, Sub-Catchment Management Committees (SCMCs) at Sub-Catchment level and Micro-Catchment Management Committees (MCMCs) at Micro-Catchment level.

The Ministry of Water and Environment has established CMCs in some catchments in the Mt. Elgon landscape. The project will support integration and strengthen these committees for coordination and collective action. Where the CMCs are non-existent, the project will establish them in the target project sites following the MWE Guidelines for the Formation of Catchment Management Committees (2014)[27]. The established CMCs will be trained about their roles and responsibilities in implementing and sustaining the identified project interventions; concepts, principles and good practices of; SLM, Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change, Landscape Approaches, IWRM, Soil and Water Conservation and Landscape Restoration among others. The training will take the form of workshops and hands-on-field activities as well as exchange/learning visits for CMC and platform stakeholders on experience sharing and knowledge learning for purpose of enhancing adoption and replication of ILM best practices within and outside the Mt. Elgon Landscape

The Mt. Elgon Stakeholder's Forum (MESF), an organization that was formed in 2012 and comprises of both state and non-state stakeholders, to promote collaborative strategies and actions for restoring and improving the quality and productivity of the Mt Elgon landscape, will be strengthened, in collaboration with the Global Program, through: (i) An analysis of the enabling environment within

which MESF can develop in the national and international context; and (ii) Assessing the MESF vision, core objectives, mission and strategy, culture, structure and competencies, processes, human resources, financial resources, information resources and infrastructure, to understand the strengthening of partnerships. This will result into: i) a Capacity Building Plan for all the relevant stakeholders (MESF, CMCs, etc.) based on the TCINA conducted under 1.2.1 above; ii) an Action Plan for strengthening inter-institution coordination and collective action; iii) a Strategic Plan and Constitution for MESF as an umbrella forum; iv) General Assemblies (to adopt working documents e.g. Strategic Plan and Constitution); v) Working strategies (Membership management, Fundraising, Stakeholder engagement, Communication); vi) Election of office bearers; and (v) quarterly and annual meetings.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Establish and train gender inclusive catchment management committees in sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation approaches
- 2) Conduct institutional and organizational assessment of existing structures (Mt Elgon Stakeholders Forum, catchment management committees, etc.) with a focus on their gender responsiveness
- 3) Develop a gender responsive Capacity Building Plan for existing structures (MESF, CMCs, etc.) for promoting inter-institutional coordination and collective action
- 4) Support the Mt. Elgon Stakeholder Forum and catchment management committees for collective action in sustainable landscape management in Mt. Elgon

Output 1.2.3: Governance, enforcement of laws and compliance monitoring at landscape level strengthened to improve the regulatory environment

The project will strengthen governance, enforcement of laws and compliance monitoring at landscape level and use evidence generated to influence policy to improve the regulatory environment at national level. This will be done to address the challenge of illegal activities that affect sustainable natural resources management. The project will examine the policy and legal framework so as to enhance governance, enforcement of laws and monitoring of compliance. This will be based on an analysis of how regulations affect actors in the forest sector, in terms of their financial, technical and managerial ability to follow legal requirements and in terms of their needs, values and norms, by:

- Assessing the underlying social, economic and cultural causes of non-compliance and making recommendations for improving the existing policy and legal framework;
- Analyzing the impact of the policy and legal framework on the livelihoods of the poor and devising remedial strategies for implementation;
- Increasing clarity, transparency and consistency of forest and forest-related legislation, by raising awareness based on tested approaches and evidence on the ground;
- Ensuring a participatory approach to policy and regulatory framework implementation in order to promote transparency, gender balance, accountability and equity;
- Harmonizing implementation of the policy and regulatory framework to ensure that laws do not contradict each other (within and with laws in other sectors);
- Building the capacity of local communities to manage natural resources in order to enhance accountability and control of natural resources at the local level; and
- Strengthen cross-sectoral linkages and collaboration to ensure a coherent and overarching approach to forest, land and agricultural issues.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Conduct a performance review of the governance and regulatory environment in the Mt. Elgon landscape
- 2) Develop a gender responsive compliance and/or enforcement strategy and Monitoring Framework based on Land Degradation Neutrality and biodiversity conservation for improved governance and law enforcement
- 3) Create awareness of the compliance and/or enforcement strategy among key stakeholders and decision makers taking gender into consideration

Component 2: Sustainable coffee and staple crops production practices and responsible value chains. Total Cost: USD 27,611,931 (GEF/TF: USD 2,043,255; Co-financing: USD 25,568,676)

The priority crop value chain for this project is that of coffee. Uganda is the 1st Commonwealth, 2nd African and 8th world producer of coffee, producing 6% of global Robusta and 1% of the world's Arabica. Ugandan coffee industry is very vibrant with government and development partners treating it as a priority and major driver of the country's transformation from a Least Developed Country (LDC) to a Middle Income one by 2040. Coffee contributes 15% of total goods exports (20 ? 30% of foreign exchange earnings) and supports over 3.5 million families. 3.3% of Uganda's coffee exports are certified coffees under international labels and Ugandan Arabica coffee is among the best in the world. The 1994 Coffee Regulations and the UCDA Statute 1991 (amended in 1994) guide Uganda's coffee marketing. At roaster level, coffee is certified under the East African Standard on Roast and Ground Coffee in line with the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS). The Uganda Coffee Development Authority together with 130 other partners is part of the Sustainable Coffee Challenge and international companies (e.g. Sucafina S.A., Olam International, Altasheel, Volcafe and Bernhard Rothfos) are involved in Uganda coffee. The Government of Uganda (GoU) recognizes the importance of coffee for national transformation and poverty reduction and has developed several strategies to improve coffee production and marketing.

The diffusion of ILM and SLM into the priority sectors of Agriculture, Forestry and Land will be done by influencing policy through evidence-based action that shows enhanced adoption of sustainable coffee and staple crops production practices in the Mt. Elgon landscape (Outcome 2.1) and improved sustainable market linkages and responsible value chains for coffee and staple crops (Outcome 2.2). Outcome 2.1 will be achieved by: (i) promoting highland specific climate-smart agriculture and SLM practices, including on-farm diversification (Output 2.1.1), (ii) creating incentives (revolving funds and credit schemes) for sustainable production of crops and their marketing (Output 2.1.2), and (iii) building the capacity of farmers, extension workers and other actors to apply sustainable coffee standards along the coffee value chain (Output 2.1.3). Outcome 2.2 will be achieved by: (i) building the capacity of the smallholder farmers (women and men) to participate in the coffee and food crop value chains (Output 2.2.1), (ii) developing and strengthening coffee and food crop value chains and linking them to markets (Output 2.2.2), and (iv) developing and disseminating protocols for sustainable coffee production so as to influence policy (Output 2.2.3). Sustainable coffee and staple crops production practices and responsible value chains will be realized particularly through creating incentives for sustainable production of crops and restoration of degraded landscapes.

Outcome 2.1: Increase in adoption of sustainable production practices for coffee and staple crops production practices in the Mt. Elgon landscape

Sustainable production practices are a necessary antecedent to environmental conservation. With sustainable production practices, the environment is able to replenish the natural resources such as land, water and air, and so contribute to livelihoods and food security. To promote sustainable production practices, the project will: i) promote highland specific climate-smart agriculture and SLM practices, including on-farm diversification (Output 2.1.1); ii) create incentives (revolving funds and credit schemes) for sustainable production of crops and their marketing (Output 2.1.2); and iii) build the capacity of farmers, extension workers and other actors to apply sustainable coffee standard along the coffee value chain (Output 2.1.3).

The project will support smaller processors and exporters in accessing the specialty market in Europe, where the value for these coffees lies by professionalizing this segment and helping to strengthen the private sector position in the local market. The project will address the shortcomings in the value chain, such as low skill levels, high processing costs, scarcity and inconsistent quality of raw material, and poor access to finance by the smaller processors and exporters. The main intervention strategies will focus on supporting better coordination of the smaller processors and exporters and supporting them in increasing qualities and efficiencies, as well as working on improving their management and technical skills, which includes marketing, promotion, and developing the soft skills to help build long-term relationships, an important attribute of the coffee specialty sector.

The project will promote Climate Smart-Agriculture (CSA) and SLM practices on up to 510,000 ha of the Mt. Elgon landscape. In addition, at least two incentive schemes (revolving funds and credit schemes) for sustainable production of crops and their marketing will be established to directly benefit a total of 384,039 people (191,275 males and 192,764 females) in 75,754 households

Output 2.1.1: Highland specific climate- smart agriculture and SLM practices, including on-farm diversification promoted

The Uganda Climate Smart-Agriculture (CSA) Country Program (2015-2025)[28] has identified six strategic priorities as sources of Uganda's agricultural development and growth in a changing climate, namely; (i) Improved productivity and incomes (ii) Public-Private partnerships; (iii) Value Chain Integration; (iv) Knowledge and capacity building; (v) Research for Development and Innovations; and (vi) Extension?farmer linkages to facilitate increased use of improved technologies. This project will contribute to the attainment of Uganda's CSA objectives and targets in the Mt. Elgon landscape through: i) promotion of at least four highland specific CSA and SLM interventions including on-farm diversification; ii) Training of 384,039 people (191,275 males and 192,764 females) on highland specific CSA and SLM interventions including on-farm diversification; (iii) Development and implementation of local land use management plans for promoting CSA and SLM; and iv) ensuring that, up to 510,000 ha of agricultural lands are under CSA including on-farm diversification.

These CSA objectives and targets will be achieved through: (a) Strengthening smallholder farmer resilience through climate change adaptation investments by; (i) Enhancing farmer's knowledge and capacity in collaboration with the Global platform, to adopt and implement climate-smart agronomic practices that will position them to better participate in and benefit from the global coffee value chain, (ii) increasing availability and uptake of improved coffee varieties; (iii) technical backstopping of farmer-owned local coffee seedling and other plants nurseries, as business opportunities for local communities; (iv) Supporting farmer groups to enhance the quality of the coffee product, increase value addition through processing and value creation thereby enhancing a positive impact on investing in and sustaining new technologies and CSA practices on their farms; (b) Supporting on-farm diversification and adaptation beyond coffee to build climate resilience, including coffee trees rehabilitation and restoration by; (i) providing professional technical assistance for the production of other relevant crops for food and cash diversification, including high-quality planting materials with specific focus on women's empowerment to enhance adaptation and resilience through CSA, thereby having synergistic effects and contributing to SLM and CSA; and (ii) promoting agroforestry on farms and community areas; (c) Leveraging traditional farming technologies to increase declining coffee and food crop yields and address structural development issues by; (i) accelerating responsible renovation and rehabilitation of coffee farms and trees by supporting farmers with rehabilitation tool kits, sharing experiences, incorporating best practices and coordinating efforts and resources, making it possible for every coffee farmer to undertake these efforts as a regular part of doing business; and (ii) supporting improved weather forecasting and climate mapping to identify and address climate-related risks, in particular focused on accessibility and use by farming families. These interventions will deliver multiple eco-benefits such as increasing soil carbon sequestration for climate, increasing soil organic matter which can enhance water retention and filtration, helping support biodiversity through on-farm diversification, and increasing crop productivity and climate resilience, resulting in benefits for farmer livelihoods.

A total of 200,000 trees are to be planted every year in each of the nine districts to benefit over 900 local coffee farmers. This agroforestry initiative is meant to improve soil fertility and productivity of coffee farms by providing shade for coffee trees and prevent landslides on community land. These new trees will also provide income diversification to farmers through the sales of fruit and timber. Three main coffee agroforestry models are to be implemented according to the agricultural context (Table 6).

PERIMETER ~130 trees/ha	INTERCROPPING ~156-300 trees/ha	PURE STAND Up to 1100 trees/ha
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In this model, trees are planted around the coffee field, along paths, water streams, and roads.	Intercropping consists in planting the trees inside the plot in between coffee plants.	Pure stand is a high-density planting model used to restore unproductive and degraded lands.
Border trees act as natural barriers against the wind and limit the spreading of crop diseases. They also form wildlife corridors and mark the boundaries of the coffee fields.	Within the coffee field, trees provide shade and maintain a cool microclimate. They improve soil fertility and water capacity.	On these lands, trees play a major role in soils regeneration and ecosystem restoration. They are also used for timber production

The trees will be selected from among native species based on several characteristics including their height and growth rate. The farmers will choose which species to be planted on their parcel of land in consultation with the Sub County Extension staff. Species include shade trees with no secondary products, fruit trees, timber trees, multi-purpose fodder trees and medicinal plants.

To keep abreast of developments in best-bet innovations, a review and synthesis of available options will be undertaken to identify potential CSA and SLM interventions. The review and synthesis will focus on assessing experiences elsewhere, the benefits and costs of the potential options in order to identify the most cost-effective options for promotion (scaling up and integration) to improve production. Synthesis of the barriers to the promotion of SLM options will be done in terms of technology, ecology, institution, economy and socio-cultural with a view of identifying opportunities for scaling up and integration. The review will also look out for options that provide opportunities for synergies between SLM practices to address desertification, land degradation, drought, climate change adaptation and mitigation including trade-off.

A community-based method that integrates both top- down and bottom- up approaches will be used to assess climate change risk, vulnerability, adaptation and impact assessment using various tools that consider the circumstances within which coffee-staple crops are produced. Crop-based models will be used to support decision making during the assessments. Key inputs to these assessments will include: Land potential assessment; Tipping points; climate change projections in the context of coffee-staple crop production; resilience tool scenario; a comprehensive and representative participation of stakeholders and gender assessment.

To match CSA and SLM practices to the land types (zones) that were initially characterized in terms of the degree of soil type limitations and socio-economic circumstances of the farm households, a WOCAT (World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies) tool[29] will be used. Using participatory approaches, the project will define the type of practices to be implemented and their locations, costs involved and benefits of the practices as well as monitoring and evaluation tools for the benefits and the impacts of practices. The identification criteria for the practices will consider the co-benefits that a practice can contribute in terms of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, controlling land degradation, and trade-off potentials of a practice towards the co-benefits. A practice will be assessed for its contribution towards land degradation, adaptation and mitigation in terms of soil erosion control, soil fertility/structure, soil water availability/retention, yield/productivity, soil organic carbon and GHG emission reduction.

Demonstration plots/fields will be setup to promote the technical knowhow and benefits of implementing CSA and SLM technologies under coffee and staple crops. Field schools will be held at the demonstration sites selected and agreed upon by farmers in their groups including the modalities of managing the site. Participatory M&E of the site will be participatory in nature and jointly arranged by the extension staff with the farmers. On-farm diversification strategies will be developed in the context of the land-use options decided upon in the integrated land-use plans including the guidance of the value chain analysis for the improvement of livelihoods and ecosystem functions and livelihoods.

In addition to the above, the project will support the treatment of at least 20 km stretches of gullies in each of the 10 main rivers above to control soil erosion, siltation and destruction of property in the Mt. Elgon landscape. This will be achieved by filling biodegradable sisal sacks with soil (each km will be treated with 300 sacks filled with soil) and stabilizing them (soil sacks) with planted indigenous tree species (400 tree seedlings per km) and establishing soil bunds upstream of the gullies to control runoff, and increase infiltration and re-charge of aquifer, ensuring steady supply of water for agriculture, domestic use and livestock production for community livelihood improvement and food security.

The project will also institute actions for soil erosion and landslides control. The major feature of this intervention is the establishment of soil and water conservation structures such as contour bunds (*Fanya juu*, *Fanya chini* and stone bands) stabilized by agroforestry shrubs (*Sesbania sesban*, *Calliandra calothyrsus* and *Flemingia* species) and Napier grass so as to increase soil fertility, control soil erosion and landslides and promote re-charge of water aquifer. Maintaining permanent soil cover through the use of plants such as *Indigofera spicata*, *Mucuna rotalaria*, *Lablab* spp., *Desmodium* spp. and *Stylosanthes* spp. will be promoted. Local communities and farmers will be trained on agroforestry tree species and Napier grass systems application in each village as a sustainability, adoption and replication strategy. In this regard, the project will train at least 384,039 people (191,275 males and 192,764 females) in 75,754 households on: 1) soil and water conservation, 2) tree planting, 3) IWRM, 4) establishment of a) soil bunds for soil and water conservation, b) establishment of stone bunds including preparation of bases, c) establishment of tree lines to stabilize the soil bunds, d) establishment of percolation and infiltration pits to trap and store runoff for soil and water conservation in the landscape, e) establishment of earth bunds and contour terracing, f) establishment of grass strips to stabilize the soil bunds, stone bunds, earth bunds and terraces, g) procurement of farm equipment and monitoring and supervision (monthly).

Water source protection measures will be undertaken in unprotected major community water sources to facilitate infiltration, control ground water pollution, reduce siltation and improve discharge. Part of the protection measures will include the establishment of: 1) soil bunds per water point source, 2) establishment of a fence around the water points using procured treated poles and local materials, 3) establishment of earth bunds, and 4) establishment of stabilizing soil bunds stabilized with Napier grass. Local communities and Water Use Committees (WUCs) will be trained on water point source protection using MWE guidelines.

The project will support the establishment of structures for flood control and water logging in the affected villages in each sub-county (in the Mt. Elgon Landscape) through the use of catchment management measures. These measures include; establishment of chamber beds in each sub-county as demonstration sites; establishment of drainage ponds/farm ponds in each of target sites to drain off water, and stakeholder engagement for water-loving crops (e.g. sugarcane) selection in each site as a mitigation/adaptation measure to water logging.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Conduct a participatory gender responsive prioritization of CSA and SLM practices including on-farm diversification
- 2) Train farmers, both men and women, on CSA and SLM practices including on-farm diversification to build their capacity and promote the identified CSA and SLM technologies including on-farm diversification
- 3) Implement identified CSA and SLM interventions including on-farm diversification in selected pilot sites

Output 2.1.2: Incentives (revolving funds and credit schemes) for sustainable production of crops and their marketing created

The project will establish revolving funds and credit schemes, in conjunction with Sebei Elgon Cooperative Union and Kalaa Mugosi Women's Empowerment Ltd, for sustainable production of crops and their marketing. This will be achieved by conducting a mapping exercise of existing and potential revolving funds and credit schemes and identifying their strengths and weaknesses, ownership and governance issues, transferability and transformability of capital through good governance and rule of law and establishing their security, fairness and property rights (including women's rights). Based on the mapping and analysis exercise, the project will promote "best-bet" practices for enhancing production and marketing and design economic incentives (credit schemes, revolving funds, etc.) to enhance production and marketing. Sebei Elgon Cooperative Union and Kalaa Mugosi Women's Empowerment Ltd already run low level incentive schemes involving support of farmers in general for the former, and women in particular for the latter, for raising and sale of high yielding coffee seedlings. The incentives will be designed in a manner that will not distort the market by providing at below market related cost. In collaboration with the Global Program, training of borrowers regarding revolving funds and credit schemes procedures will be done in order to increase their access to institutional credit. Further, the procedure for credit disbursement will be made simple so that it may not be difficult even for the less-educated and illiterate households to have access to credit

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Identify existing and potential incentive schemes (revolving funds and credit schemes) and select appropriate ones for sustainable production of crops in Mt. Elgon landscape
- 2) Train, both men and women, farmers to manage and utilize incentive schemes (revolving fund and credit schemes)
- 3) Promote appropriate incentive schemes (revolving fund and credit schemes) for sustainable crop production in the Mt. Elgon landscape

Output 2.1.3: Capacity of farmers, extension workers and other actors to apply sustainable coffee standard along coffee value chain enhanced

Sustainable coffee standards started to spread in Uganda in the early 1990s, starting with Fairtrade and consecutively followed by organic certification, Utz, Rainforest Alliance and 4C. Currently about 35,000 Ugandan coffee producers are Fair-trade certified, 30,000 obtained an organic certificate, 65,450 participate in Utz certification and an estimated 21,200 are certified to the Rainforest Alliance standard.[30] Certified coffee production is currently estimated to be 3% of total coffee exports and continues to expand.[31] Uganda is currently revising the processing standards[32] for wet and dry processed green coffee beans.

Given their diversity and nature, sustainable coffee standards tend to be rather complex for smallholders and cooperatives. Many farmers are not aware of the options to implement single or multiple standards to facilitate multiple certifications. A recent analysis of Utz Kapeh coffee certification in Uganda suggests that neither farmers nor the exporter involved knew much about the premium system.[33] Under these circumstances, the project will undertake capacity building of farmers, extension workers and other actors to apply sustainable coffee standard along coffee value chain.

A detailed Technical and Institutional Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) will be conducted in collaboration with the Global Program, upon which a Capacity Building Plan (CBP) will be developed and implemented. The capacity building will include strategies and approaches, including training workshops, farmer schools, etc. which will result into: (i) farm-based sustainable coffee production adopted in 36 Sub-counties across all the nine target districts in the Mt. Elgon ecosystem; (ii) scaling up of climate-smart sustainable coffee production in the entire landscape; (iii) dissemination of innovations in the processing of wet and dry green coffee beans to 36 Sub-counties across all the 9 target districts in the Mt. Elgon ecosystem; (iv) at least 10,834,692 tCO₂e will be avoided/sequestered through afforestation, reforestation and agroforestry from sustainable shade coffee production (Appendix 18). This intervention will benefit 384,039 smallholder coffee farmers (191,275 males and 192,764 females) and extension workers and other actors. The trained farmers, extension workers and other actors will then be able to apply sustainable coffee standards along the coffee value chain.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Conduct a technical capacity and institutional needs assessment of male and female farmers, extension workers and other actors to apply sustainable coffee standards along coffee value chain
- 2) Develop a gender responsive Capacity Building Plan (CBP) for improving the application of the sustainable coffee standards along coffee value chain based on the TCINA
- 3) Conduct training sessions for selected male and female farmers, extension workers and other actors to apply sustainable coffee standards along coffee value chain (production to marketing)
- 4) Disseminate or scale out the application of coffee standards to men and women farmers and other stakeholders in the Mt. Elgon landscape.

Outcome 2.2: Increased share of coffee and staple crops production from the Mt. Elgon region being marketed through responsible value chains

Uganda coffee and food crop buyers and processors focus on quantities that enable them to financially break-even but this leads to malpractices and poor quality. Combined with poor market intelligence at the lower levels of the value chain and competition for global market share, makes Uganda lose its global market share. However, Ugandan coffee and organic food crops have intrinsic characteristics that are attractive on the global market and Uganda can benefit more by developing a protocol for sustainable and responsible coffee production and market linkages for coffee and staple food crops. In this regard, the project will support GoU in developing a protocol for sustainable and responsible coffee production and market linkages for coffee and staple food crops to benefit a total of 384,039 smallholder coffee and food crop farmers (191,275 males and 192,764 females) through strengthening of at least four value chains (coffee, maize, banana and Irish potato) linked to markets and placing 100,000 ha of coffee crop area under certification scheme. The GEF Uganda project will focus on upstream processes, addressing market information challenges, shortages of critical inputs, poor storage conditions, and technical capacity for the food crops value chains. The project will support improving access to markets for existing actors and new entrants, thereby helping the actors rethink their business models to capture new opportunities by upgrading physical technology and practices for improved productivity, efficiency and value addition; and improving knowledge and skills of actors in the system to work differently and interdependently. The main interventions along the **Maize** and **Irish Potato** value chains will be capacity building for: (i) promotion of the adoption of improved postharvest handling practices; (ii) facilitating the dissemination of market information; (iii) strengthening the capacities of actors to properly handle the four food crop value chains (coffee, maize, banana and Irish potato) to avoid damage (cutting, crushing, and bruising); (iv) promotion of the use of recommended postharvest management practices; (v) increasing shelf-life through use of better varieties and handling; (vi) promotion of CSA and SLM practices and technologies on farm; and (vii) promotion of storage practices and technologies that help maintain quality after harvest while awaiting a selling opportunity at a good price.

Output 2.2.1: Capacity of the smallholder farmers (mainly women and men) to participate in the coffee and food crop value chains built

The project will conduct a Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) of the farmers and develop a Capacity Building Plan (in output 2.1.3) based on the CNA to guide the institutional and organizational strengthening of the smallholder farmers. In this regard, the project will establish and build the capacity of at least 36 formal farmer groups to participate in the coffee and food crop value chains and train a total of 240,000 smallholder coffee and food crop farmers (119,000 males and 121,000 females) comprising of 48,501 households in coffee and food crops value chains. However, improving the performance of actors along a sustainable and inclusive coffee and staple crop value chains will require:

- 1). Involvement of all key actors, including women, men, youth and persons with different physical capabilities in understanding what performance is, how this performance can be improved and measured to enable monitoring and evaluation. Understanding of core drivers of performance or the root causes of underperformance will involve: a) Analysis of how value chain stakeholders and their activities are linked to each other and to their economic and social and natural environment; b)

Analysis of the behavior of the individual stakeholder in their business interactions; and c) Analysis of how value is determined in end markets;

2). Provision of a realistic strategy that will be mutually agreed upon by, for example, selecting activities and multilateral partnerships that can support the strategy. The core value chain strategy will be based on the analysis of stakeholders and related activities in 1a) above. This will lead to the development of a vision that reflects the anticipated scale of impact.

3). Measurement of the impact in terms of social, economic, and environmental intended and unintended outcomes.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Conduct a capacity needs assessment of smallholder farmers (women and men) to participate in the coffee and food crops value chains
- 2) Develop a gender responsive Capacity Building Plan (CBP) for smallholder farmers to participate in the coffee and food crops value chain
- 3) Build the capacity (training, re-tooling, exchange visits) of selected smallholder farmers (women and men) to participate in the coffee and food crop value chains

Output 2.2.2: Coffee and food crop value chains developed, strengthened and linked to markets

Uganda's Vision 2040 aspires to create and promote value chains that are i) economically sustainable by identifying opportunities to add economic value, ii) socially sustainable by including all female as well as male actors, iii) environmentally sustainable by emphasizing green production and processes as well as enhancing the positive impacts on the non-renewable natural resources e.g. carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation, iv) efficient through identifying and addressing the root causes of underperformance, v) effective through transparent governance systems, vi) directly and clearly linked to end-market opportunities, vii) driven by a well thought out vision and strategy, viii) driven by an effective plan that increases competitiveness, ix) a scalable demonstration and replication process, and x) linked to the private sector, the public sector, donors and civil society as its facilitators.

The project will support Uganda's strategy and development agenda by; (i) Developing and supporting implementation of a Business Plan (BP) for coffee and food crops along value chains; (ii) Developing and ensuring the functionality of strong coffee and food crop value chains that are linked to markets; and (iii) Enhancing the capacity and participation of 240,000 farmers (119,000 males and 121,000 females) comprising of 48,501 households of smallholder coffee and food crop farmers in the coffee and food crop value chains that are linked to markets. Specific interventions will include but not limited to the following: (i) Establishment of linkages with exporters/destination markets (whether through farmers' organizations or otherwise); (ii) Development and operationalization of an efficient and effective market information systems for farmers, farmers' organizations and others; (iii) Profiling Mt. Elgon Arabica coffee; (iv) Establishment of a system for ensuring traceability of Mt. Elgon Arabica coffee; (v) Development of a genetic resources management strategy to tap competitive advantage of the Mt. Elgon Arabica coffee and (vi) Development and implementation of a Domestic Coffee Consumption Strategy to increase domestic coffee consumption of the Mt. Elgon Arabica coffee.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Develop functional gender responsive coffee and food crop value chains that focus on increasing domestic consumption of coffee and other staple crops
- 2) Develop an efficient and effective market information system for linking men and women farmers, farmers' organizations and others to markets
- 3) Build the capacity of men and women farmers, farmers' organizations and others to enhance their participation in coffee and food crop value chains

Output 2.2.3: Protocols for sustainable coffee production to influence policy developed and disseminated

Since the mid-90s, there has been an increasing focus on sustainable coffee production. Driven by consumer demand, international certification standards were developed to promote sustainable coffee production, including 4C, UTZ certified, Fair Trade, Rainforest Alliance and organic standards, among others. Worldwide, certified coffee production has seen a tremendous growth with approximately 15% of the traded coffee originating from certified farmers in 2013. Uganda is lagging behind with only 2-3% of its production being sold as certified[34]. This is largely related to the very high costs of certifying large groups of farmers (e.g. staff, operational funds, audit fees). The high costs inhibit many farmer associations to hold their own certificates. Consequently, most certified coffee projects in Uganda are led by exporters, or exporter related Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and are donor-dependent. Similarly, traceability, an essential element for certified and niche market coffee is a challenge in Uganda.

The Uganda National Coffee Policy (2013)[35] stipulates the need for a review of the Uganda National Coffee Standards to apply to all stages of the coffee value chain and to be in harmony with the proposed coffee law and International Standards. The coffee standards will include food safety clauses to ensure Ugandan coffee meets food safety requirements in consumer countries and address existing and emerging issues in the coffee industry, climate change and the growing demand for conventional and certified coffees in emerging and traditional markets, respectively. Basing on the mainstream global coffee market, and the local situation in the Mt. Elgon landscape, the project will develop sustainability and leverage on existing certification standards that will include: (i) strengthening corporate responsibility systems and mechanisms (ii) carbon neutrality, (iii) impact on producing communities, (iv) welfare of farmers and factory workers, and (v) impact on local biodiversity since certified farms tend to have high biodiversity and also serve as links between forest fragments, creating wildlife corridors that provide vital habitat for migratory species[36]. In this regard, the project will: (i) update and operationalize the code of conduct and guidelines addressing sustainable coffee production in the Mt. Elgon landscape, (ii) Place 100,000 ha of coffee crop area under selected coffee certification schemes, (iii) Develop and operationalize selected protocols for sustainable coffee production protocols, (iv) Disseminate sustainable coffee production protocols so as to influence policy on sustainable and certified coffee production that meets international standards, and (v) In collaboration with the Global Platform, support the exploration of new technologies such as block chain, to promote traceability of coffee, facilitate financial transactions between consumers and producers/farmers, and voucher system for technical support/input.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) With a gender lens, update and operationalize the code of conduct and guidelines addressing sustainable coffee production in the Mt. Elgon landscape
 - 2) Adopt and implement appropriate gender responsive coffee certification schemes in Mt. Elgon landscape
 - 3) Develop and operationalize selected gender responsive protocols for sustainable coffee production
 - 4) Disseminate sustainable coffee production protocols so as to influence policy on sustainable and certified coffee production that meets international standards
- Support the exploration of new technologies to promote traceability, facilitate financial transactions between consumers and producers/farmers

Component 3: Natural habitat restoration. Total Cost: USD 34,415,317 (GEF/TF: USD 4,611,646; Co-financing: USD 29,803,671)

Under this component, degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes will be halted, and their restoration initiated and improved for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, resilience building and carbon stocks for mitigating climate change. In this respect, GHG emissions will be mitigated and/or minimized through restoration activities in degraded lands and halting the loss of HCvFs through deforestation-free agriculture. Small-scale farmers will be trained on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) approaches, equipped and benefiting from the Community Environment Conservation Fund (CECF) as an FLR incentive mechanism. The intended outcome is controlled floods

and soil erosion, aquifer re-charge and, sustainable coffee and other staple food crop production and, improved food security and, enhanced landscape resilience and carbon sinks and storage

Natural habitat restoration to improve biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and carbon stocks is expected to be realized by end of project through restoration of degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes. By restoring these habitats on a recovery path, Uganda will be contributing to the achievement of: (i) Aichi Target 5 (reduction of loss, including degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats);, Target 7 (sustainable management of areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry);, Target 11 (conservation of terrestrial areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystems services);, Target 14 (restoration of ecosystems that provide essential services including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods, and wellbeing; taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable, and Target 15 that makes a clear commitment to restoring 15% percent of degraded land across the globe by 2020; (ii) Targets of the UNFCCC on international action towards global climate; and (iii) the Bonn Challenge Target of restoring 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land by 2020. The outcome from activities under this component is described below.

Outcome 3.1: Improved condition of habitats ensuring biodiversity conservation, preservation of ecosystem services and maintenance of carbon stocks

The project will support the restoration of natural habitats for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and carbon stocks thus enabling Uganda to contribute to the achievement of: (i) Target 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity that makes a clear commitment to restoring 15 percent of degraded land across the globe by 2020; (ii) the Bonn Challenge target of restoring 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030; and (iii) Targets of the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) on international action and national actions towards reducing GHG emissions for better global climate. As a response to the Bonn challenge, Uganda pledged to restore 2.5 million hectares of degraded forests and land. In this regard, the project target is to: (i) restore 55,000 hectares of land: degraded farmlands (35,000 ha), forest and wetlands (20,000 ha; 50/50 reforestation and assisted regeneration respectively) in the Mt Elgon landscape and have them under improved management and benefitting biodiversity; and (ii) mitigate against the emission of GHGs with a target of at least 10,834,692 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) avoided/sequestered so as to reduce the impacts of climate change through avoidance/sequestration; and the capacity of stakeholders at District and Sub-county levels to carry out natural habitat restoration built, in addition to increasing their awareness and understanding on the benefits of restored ecosystem. Several tools, models and standards will be used to achieve actual implementation, as well as the integrated monitoring of habitat improvement. Key among these is the Global Standard on Nature-based Solutions which will be applied to ensure that clear actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore ecosystems are implemented and adopted by a wide range of actors.

Output 3.1.1: Measures to ensure sustainable restoration of degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes in the nine project districts put in place

Sustainable restoration of ecosystems can be achieved by putting in place measures such as frameworks for ecosystem restoration, capacity building including appropriate skilling on restoration and provision of incentives for ecosystem restoration. This project will undertake a review and domestication of existing international standards and guidelines[37],[38],[39],[40]; conduct a capacity needs assessment of local governments focusing on training levels, equipment and resources available for ecosystem restoration; develop a capacity building plan and; build the capacity of local governments on ecosystem restoration in collaboration with the Global Platform. The project will consider gender responsiveness and sensitivity in the restoration of degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes. In addition, the project in conjunction with the Global Platform, will equip farmer groups with appropriate skills on ecosystem restoration and incentives for restoring degraded ecosystem.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) With a gender lens, review and domesticate existing international standards and guidelines on ecosystem restoration,
- 2) Carry out capacity needs assessment of local governments focusing on training levels, equipment and resources available for ecosystem restoration including development of a gender responsive capacity building plan,
- 3) Build the capacity of local governments in ecosystem restoration (training, learning visits and provision of equipment for ecosystem restoration)
- 4) Equip farmer groups with appropriate skills on ecosystem restoration and incentives for restoring degraded ecosystem

Output 3.1.2: Stakeholder awareness and understanding of the benefits of restoring degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes to communities, local economies and nature increased

Intact ecosystems provide benefits to communities, local economies and nature in form of goods and services. However, ecosystem degradation results in the loss of these benefits. Restoration of degraded ecosystems leads to ecosystems regaining their ability to provide benefits; hence the benefit of restoring degraded ecosystems. The project will determine the stakeholder levels of awareness and understanding of the benefits of restoring ecosystems by conducting Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) surveys at the beginning and end of project. An innovative methodology, the Randomized Control Trial (RCT) will be used. The RCT tool was used by UNEP under the GEFID 5718 in Uganda on PES. The RCT is a trial in which farmers will be randomly assigned to one of two groups: one (the experimental group) receiving the intervention that is being applied, and the other (the comparison group or control) receiving no or an alternative intervention. The two groups will then be followed up to see if there are any differences between them in outcome. The results and subsequent analysis of the trial will be used to assess the effectiveness of the project intervention in raising awareness and changing local community attitudes towards natural habitat restoration, and the extent of the cause-effect relation between the intervention and the outcome. The results of the RCT will be documented and packaged and used for the sensitization of local government officials and communities on the benefits of ecosystem restoration with a view to change mindsets will be undertaken. This will be reinforced, in collaboration with the Global Platform, with dissemination of developed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on the benefits of ecosystem restoration together with documented best practices and success stories on ecosystem services from ecosystem restoration.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- Conduct Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) surveys on the benefits of ecosystem restoration at the beginning and end of project focusing on both men and women,
- Conduct Randomized Control Trials (RCT) to assess the effectiveness of the project intervention in raising awareness and changing local community attitudes towards natural habitat restoration.
- Sensitize both men and women in local governments and communities on the benefits of ecosystem restoration to local economies and nature with the aim to change mindsets using evidence based data from the RCTs
- Develop and disseminate gender responsive Information, Education and Communications (IEC) materials on the benefits of ecosystem restoration
- Document and share best practices and success stories on ecosystem services from ecosystem restoration.

Output 3.1.3 Degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes restored (35,000 ha of degraded farmland and hilltops, 20,000 ha of degraded forest and 250 ha of wetlands areas)

Restoration of degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes will be done in the context of land condition assessments (output 1.1.1) and the integrated land-use plans (output 1.1.3). The project will conduct a stakeholder engagement at District and sub-county levels to: (i) define aspirational restoration goals and target species or functional groups of species for degraded forests, fragile lands

and unstable slopes; (ii) understand for degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes what healthy habitats look like for the target species of interest or functional groups of species in the case of degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes i.e. determining; how ecological communities function; and how habitats may naturally change over time; (iii) identify the past, current and possible future state and threats to the habitats in the landscape and sites of interest for degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes; (iv) undertake site assessments to determine the current state of the sites and any current or future threats that may impact on site conditions in degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes; (v) refine restoration goal(s) after conducting site assessments for degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes; (vi) identify general restoration actions that can be undertaken to reach the desired state for degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes; and (vii) summarize restoration actions into budgeted Restoration Action Plans (RAPs), at least nine RAPs, for degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes to be approved by the relevant stakeholders at District and sub-county levels. Stakeholders will also be engaged in conducting external context assessment to identify ways to physically align habitats at the restoration site to improve external ecological connectivity with the surrounding landscape to optimize colonization and gene flow potential between sites and specify mechanisms for the future management of the sites to interface optimally with management of nearby native systems and, identifying reference ecosystems that represent the composition and functional ecosystem elements. All these stakeholder engagements will result in stakeholder buy-in to the restoration cause.

In summary, and based on the available baseline information in the Mt. Elgon Landscape, the following activities are envisaged to be undertaken to achieve this output targets:

- a) *Restoration of degraded forests and wetlands.* A total of 20,000 ha of degraded forests and 250 ha of wetlands will be restored. The project will work very closely and in collaboration with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), the National Forestry Authority (NFA), the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), the Directorate of Water Resources Management (DRWM) and the DLGs to map, demarcate and restore a total of 20,000 ha of degraded forest areas and 250 ha of wetlands within the Mt. Elgon landscape. The project will support the demarcation and restoration of degraded wetlands areas in the 9 districts to perform their ecological and socio-economic functions in Mt. Elgon landscape. All affected wetlands will be mapped, prioritized, demarcated and restored using locally available materials such as trees and grass and CMOs supported to develop and enforce bye-laws to manage the demarcated and restored wetlands.

The project will promote and support the planting of indigenous tree species that provide cover and shade to coffee trees (e.g. *Maesopsis eminii*, *Markhamia lutea*, *Cordia africana*, *Albizia coriaria*, *Ficus natalensis*, *Ficus mucosa*, *Grevilia robusta* and *Albizzia* spp.) on agricultural lands mixed with crop (agroforestry, using forestry shrubs such as *Sesbania sesban*, *Calliandra calothyrsus* and *Flemingia* sp.) and establishment of woodlots in private and communal lands so as to increase agricultural land fertility for food production, increase biodiversity, mitigate climate change and control soil erosion and landslides and restore the ecological integrity of the landscape. This intervention will make available trees for fuel wood for cooking, making furniture and household construction as well as agroforestry tree species as fodder for feeding zero- grazing livestock and for sale to other farmers for scaling up and out the project interventions. As a result, there will be a reduction of community dependence on biomass energy from the National Park leading to the restoration of the physical integrity

of the park and conservation of biodiversity in the protected area with a resultant mitigation against the emission of GHGs from landscape deforestation and forest degradation, enhanced carbon sinks for at least 10,834,692 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) and a contribution to the mitigation (and adaptation to the co-benefits) of climate change impacts.

- b) ***Restoration of degraded farmland, fragile lands, unstable slopes and hilltops.*** A total of 35,000 ha of degraded farmland, fragile lands, unstable slopes and hilltops will be restored through riverbanks? restoration, gully treatment, soil erosion and landslides control, water source protection and control of waterlogging. The project will restore 6,000 ha of degraded river banks of 10 major rivers in Mt. Elgon landscape (i.e. Manafwa, Bukwo, Atari, Sipi, Simu, Sironko, Namatala, Ngenge, Kaptakwoi and Muyembe) to control soil erosion, siltation of rivers and flood control downstream, and ensure availability of water in adequate quantity and good quality. This will involve demarcating of buffer zones on both sides of these rivers and planting them with indigenous tree species and grasses (e.g. bamboo and Napier-*Pennisetum purpureum* (commonly known as elephant grass). This measure will also make available trees and bamboo for fuel wood for cooking, making furniture and household construction as well as Napier grass for feeding zero- grazing livestock and sale to other farmers for scaling up and out the project interventions. The use of green solutions for restoration of degraded riverbanks will promote ecosystems-based adaptation

To facilitate monitoring and evaluation of the restoration impacts, ecological baseline inventories will be carried out at the beginning and end of project and fed into the M&E System for analysis, packaging and dissemination and sharing of lessons learned and good practices for adoption and scaling up. This effort will also support the actions geared towards improving project performance through implementation of the shortcomings identified during the M&E emissions.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Conduct a gender responsive participatory mapping and action planning at community level and ground restoration sites within the forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes
- 2) Develop gender responsive site specific Restoration Action Plans and methodologies, including land-use scenarios
- 3) Implement the Restoration Action Plans (RAPs) in selected pilot sites
- 4) Support local governments to carry out monthly technical backstopping to small holder farmers for implementation of RAPs

Component 4: Knowledge management (generation, sharing, learning and scaling up). Total Cost: USD 6,976,810 (GEF/TF: USD 780,283; Co-financing: USD 6,196,527).

Government of Uganda policies and guidelines support engagement with local, national, regional and global stakeholders in natural resources management and governance. These ideas are also enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Target 16 which ensures responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making. Such inclusive decision-making is a foundation of sound conservation practice. However, translating these ideas into practice to sustain interventions remains problematic. Knowledge management (sharing, learning and scaling- up) under which improved knowledge on Integrated Landscape Management approaches at local, landscape, national, regional and global levels is expected to be realized and best practices and lessons learned adopted and scaled up vertically and horizontally will be documented and shared.

Both Kenya and Uganda will implement GEF-7 FOLUR child projects to support integrated landscape management of Mt. Elgon ecosystem focusing on coffee, maize and banana value chains. The two child projects will allocate resources for knowledge management (generation, sharing, learning and scaling up) activities in order to promote synergies for ensuring greater impact. If successful, these synergetic operations will result to: 1) better understanding, amongst local farmers, of the connection between farmland productivity and ecosystem health (reduced land degradation, restored watersheds, increased crop yields), 2). improved local level policies on agriculture and related other sectoral policies, 3). enhanced learning at local to national levels, through better access to information, networking, capacity building and leadership development, and 4). enhance community interaction and peace building.

In this regard, the project will facilitate and enhance knowledge acquisition and experience sharing at local, landscape, national, regional and global levels through better access to information, knowledge, learning, networking, for purposes of catalyzing coordinated implementation of climate and disaster risk reduction, land degradation neutrality (LDN) and biodiversity loss reduction. The project will target knowledge sharing and learning with existing platforms, structures and similar projects in and outside the Mt. Elgon Landscape at local, landscape, national and regional levels. The Project will also contribute to lessons learned and good practices for wider adoption, replication, leveraging and dissemination at regional level through platforms and knowledge networks such as the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), and at global level through the FOLUR Global Platform. As a complement to the quantitative reporting, the Project will document success stories, and provide other input as contributions to the FOLUR IP annual and periodic progress reports.

Outcome 4.1: Sector agencies and relevant institutions applying ILM approaches in their planning and policies.

This outcome will be achieved by delivering on four gender-responsive outputs and activities: (i) developing and operationalizing an interactive M&E system to track implementation of ILM in Mt. Elgon landscape for purposes of scaling out in similar areas in Uganda (Output 4.1.1), (ii) documenting best practices and lessons learned and training key project and GoU staff in that respect for sustainability purposes (Output 4.1.2) (iii) sharing of best practices and lessons learned at landscape, national and regional levels to inform uptake of ILM practices and policy (Output 4.1.3); (iv) sharing best practices and lessons learned at regional and global FOLUR partners and CPs meetings and conferences (Output 4.1.4).

Output 4.1.1: An interactive Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning system developed and operationalized to track implementation of ILM in Mt. Elgon landscape for purpose of scaling up in similar areas in Uganda

The purpose of monitoring, evaluation and learning practices is to apply knowledge gained from evidence and analysis to improve development outcomes and ensure accountability for the resources used to achieve them. The project will develop a monitoring, evaluation and learning framework in a participatory approach as a foundation and set of supporting guidelines to inform the implementation of ILM in similar areas of Uganda. The monitoring, evaluation and learning framework will be developed based on the indicators provided in *Section 6: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan* that enables: (i) Contributing to the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources; (ii) Restoring degraded land and soil, including land affected by drought and floods; (iii) Tracking of changes in climate change vulnerability over time using identified and selected indicators; (iv) Monitoring and evaluating mitigation/adaptation measures to climate changes using identified and selected indicators; (v) Monitoring and evaluating landscape/catchment management measures being implemented using identified and selected indicators and, (vi) Monitoring and evaluating Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) so as to report progress towards achieving SDG target 15.3 at national and global levels, i.e. land cover change, land productivity and carbon stocks including soil organic carbon.

The M&E System will allow: (i) the entry of baseline and raw indicator data as and when collected through the User Interface, (ii) Storage of the different instances of the data in a database, (iii) Retrieval of the data when needed from the database, (iv) Processing of the available data so as to generate status reports related to climate change variability, adaptation measures, landscape/catchment management

measures and LDN and, (v) Controlled access (data security) and data backup. For practical purposes and easy access, the M&E System will be based on an appropriate, widely available and open source operating system with a friendly user interface that will ensure the system's effectiveness, sustainability and interactivity. The system will be managed at the PMU and linked to the NEMA M&E system. In addition, the system will also be installed for all the nine project districts with real-time download at the central server at PMU. This will also allow easy access and use of the M&E System for tracking of interventions in all the nine target districts and ensures wide exposure of the M&E System for scaling up in similar areas in Uganda.

To facilitate this process, services of a Professional M&E Expert will be required to do the following in close coordination and collaboration with the IPs: (i) Identifying and clarifying the goals and objectives of ILM in the Mt. Elgon landscape; (ii) Defining the process and outcome indicators for tracking progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of ILM; (iii) Training key staff of IPs (District Local Government, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, PSO and CSOs) on the M&E System use and protocols; (iv) Defining methods and timelines for gathering multiple source data to track indicators; (v) Identifying M&E roles and responsibilities with regards to data collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination; (vi) Developing a data analysis plan and reporting templates and, (vii) Developing a dissemination plan to support implementation and scaling up of ILM in the Mt. Elgon landscape.

Once the monitoring, evaluation and learning framework has been developed, it will be submitted to the Project Steering Committee for approval and the relevant sector agencies for adoption. Once adopted, the framework will be disseminated to all stakeholders (including authorities, NGOs, multi-stakeholder platforms, etc.) and made a requirement for future ILM practices in the country. The operationalization of the monitoring, evaluation and learning system will also include training of stakeholders for monthly and quarterly data entry and processing.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Develop an interactive gender responsive Monitoring and Evaluation system for ILM implementation
- 2) Establish and/or strengthen knowledge storage and sharing framework
- 3) Develop a gender responsive dissemination plan to support operationalization and scaling up of the M&E system for ILM in the Mt. Elgon landscape

Output 4.1.2: Best practices and lessons learned documented and shared at landscape, national and regional levels to inform uptake of ILM practices and policy

Best practices and lessons learnt will be discussed and documented throughout the project cycle with all stakeholders at all levels (community, landscape, national, and global levels) and this includes during; baseline data/information collection, stakeholder engagement meetings, participatory planning and visioning exercises, project implementation phase and platform engagement meetings and discussions during learning and experience sharing. This is mainly to: (i) collect baseline data/information from the project sites; (ii) capture on-going actions that address specific challenges identified in the baseline for both direct and indirect beneficiaries; (iii) capture matured interventions and their outcomes while highlighting roles of different stakeholders at different levels of implementation, and (iv) document other good practices elsewhere within the FOLUR IPs to lend support to the Uganda FOLUR project component.

Different tools and methodologies will be designed and applied for data/information collection: (i) Landscape Analysis Tools to carry out a landscape analysis of forest and other natural resources and agricultural land in order to understand the way in which local resources are used and managed by the local communities in the landscape; and (ii) Livelihood Assessment Tool-kit to assess the responses to the impact of disasters to livelihood assets, vulnerability to climate change and coping strategies, the institutional context and capabilities and livelihood strategies and outcomes on the livelihoods of people; (iii) LDN response hierarchy and land use planning and analysis tools and approaches; (iv) Policy Integration Analysis tools; (v) Gender mainstreaming and inclusion analysis and evaluation tools; and (vi) Market Access and Linkages Analysis Tools. The gathering, managing,

and using data and information will be geared towards documenting and sharing the project impacts, effectiveness, relevance and sustainability so as to enhance adoption and replication and scaling up and out. The project will determine the stakeholder levels of awareness and understanding of the benefits of restoring ecosystems by conducting Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) surveys at the beginning and end of project. An innovative methodology, the Randomized Control Trial (RCT) will be used (Output 3.12).. The results of the RCT will be documented and packaged and used for the sensitization of local government officials and communities on the benefits of ecosystem restoration with a view to change mindsets will be undertaken.

In this regard, the information collected will be packaged and produced in different communication materials targeting specific audiences and these materials will include: (i) *Pull Up Banners* highlighting project achievements and the key lessons learned for use during high level meetings and workshops; (ii) *Posters* depicting the current situation and the desired future scenarios of natural resources management for awareness raising and educational purposes at community and landscape level; (iii) *Lessons Learned and Best Practices Booklet* to share key lessons and best practices at landscape, national, regional and global levels; (iv) *Video Documentaries* (3-5 minutes for policy influencing and 15-20 minutes for awareness raising and educational purposes at community and landscape level); (v) *Policy Briefs* on climate change, land degradation and LDN and biodiversity conservation for policy influencing at national, regional and global levels; (vi) *online data and information sharing platform* for easy access and information flow to target audiences, and providing an avenue for learning and adoption even under unfavorable conditions for dissemination e.g. the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation; and (v) *Scientific Journal Articles* publications on Landscape Approaches for enhancing adoption and replication within and beyond FLOUR IP countries.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Document best practices and lessons in a collaborative process through structured and unstructured processes
- 2) Identify appropriate hardware and software for storage and processing of the experiences and knowledge gained from project implementation
- 3) Input or store the selected best practices and lessons into a suitable database for sharing and dissemination.
- 4) Disseminate or share the selected best practices and lessons to relevant stakeholders in various platforms so as to inform general ILM practice and policy.
- 5) Conduct hands on training for key stakeholder staff in the use of the hardware and software for storage and processing of the experiences and knowledge gained from project implementation, and enter the selected best practices and lessons into a suitable database for sharing and dissemination.

4.1.3. Best practices and lessons learned shared at landscape, national and regional levels to inform uptake of ILM practices and policy

The project will facilitate exchange sharing and learning exchange visits for farmer groups and associations, and technical staff and policy makers meetings and conferences at landscape, national and regional levels for purposes of disseminating project best practices to likeminded partners for purposes of sharing experiences and knowledge so as to enhance uptake, adoption and replication of best practices and lessons learned as well as to inform general CSA and ILM practice and policy at landscape, national and regional levels.

In this regard, the project will target knowledge sharing and learning with existing platforms, structures and similar projects in the Mt. Elgon Landscape at landscape and at national and regional levels. The project will tap into the AFR100, a dynamic network of political, technical and financial partners so as to promote the scaling up restoration efforts within the Mt. Elgon ecosystem on the ground, and to capture associated technical and future financial benefits for food security, climate change resilience and poverty alleviation field level actions. The project target is aligned to the National goals for climate change mitigation and resilience, food security, water security, and biodiversity as embedded in the REDD+ Strategy, Forest Investment Plan, and Climate Change Resilience Programme. AFR100 network links would provide technical support to identify priority landscapes to implement restoration, and drive sector investments in those areas.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

Uganda Landscape level

- 1) Organize joint inter-district exchange experience sharing and learning visits for farmer associations and groups with their counterparts in the nine project target districts in the Mt. Elgon Ecosystem.
- 2) Organize exchange experience sharing and learning visits for farmer associations and groups with their counterparts implementing similar interventions (e.g. in the areas the Mt. Rwenzori Ecosystem; Lake Albert Water Management Zone).
- 3) Organize inter-sector and multi-stakeholder participatory monitoring and evaluation emissions of project interventions at field level to assess progress, challenges and opportunities and to chart strategies for improvement and upscaling.
- 4) Disseminate and share best practices and lessons with relevant stakeholders at landscape level during the Mt. Elgon Stakeholders' Forum Annual General Assemblies, and Awoja Catchment Annual Catchment Management Committee (CMCs) meetings.

Uganda National level

- 5) Disseminate and share best practices and lessons with relevant stakeholders' national level during National events such as the Ministry of Water and Environment Annual Water Week, the Mountain Ecosystem Forum Annual conference and Annual Joint Sector Review meetings involving CSOs, PSOs and GoU Policy Makers.

Uganda-Kenya landscape Level

- 6) Organise regional experience sharing and learning exchange visits for farmer associations and groups with their counterparts in Bungoma and Trans-Zoia Counties, Western Kenya on the GEF Project, *?Integrated Landscape Management for Conservation and Restoration of the Mt. Elgon Ecosystem in Western Kenya?* project.
- 7) Organize regional experience sharing and learning exchange visits for key project technical staff with their counterparts in Bungoma and Trans-Zoia Counties Western Kenya on the GEF Project, *?Integrated Landscape Management for Conservation and Restoration of the Mt. Elgon Ecosystem in Western Kenya?* project.

Africa (AFR100) level

- 8) Participate in the AFR100 regional and global meetings and conferences to identify, and tap into technical support and financial resources to support upscaling of priority restoration efforts, and drive sector investments in zero deforestation agriculture, food security and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Output 4.1.4: Best practices and lessons learned shared at regional and global FOLUR partners and CPs meetings and conferences in the Global Platform.

The project will proactively establish links, engage and strengthen GoU's participation in regional and global multi-stakeholder platforms FOLUR partners and CPs especially associated with Global Landscape Forum. The project will facilitate participation of key technical staff and policy makers in the annual events of regional and global platforms of the FOLUR partners and CPs for purposes of sharing experiences and knowledge so as to enhance uptake, adoption and replication of best practices and lessons learned as well as to inform general CSA and ILM practice and policy. These regional and global FOLUR partners and CPs events will also be used to engage and dialogue with partners on the challenges, opportunities and strategies to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, and CBD targets.

Other potential areas of collaboration with the Global Platform, and where the Global Platform can add value include; training, technical assistance and analysis on innovation on a prioritized basis, particularly where such training and innovation technical assistance meets the needs of several countries in a commodity space. Synergies will also be created with the Global Platform to support in documentation and sharing of best practices and success stories at global level through different platforms and on line communications channels associated with the FOLUR partners and CPs meetings and conferences associated with Global Landscape Forum in the Global Platform. In order to maximize knowledge management and communication, the project will collaborate with the FOLUR Global Platform Project under its Pillar C: *?Strategic Knowledge Management and Communications?*. In this

regard, the project will seek the technical assistance of the Global Platform project to: (i) Manage knowledge exchange technology to share resources (Global Platform Website); (ii) Manage and expand Uganda FOLUR Child Project public presence, outreach and branding; (iii) Synthesize, package and disseminate existing tools and knowledge in the Annual Report, and (iv) Link the Uganda FOLUR Child Project across scales (Local to Global) through Global and Regional engagements and events.

In summary, the following activities will be undertaken to achieve this output:

- 1) Participate regularly in the Global meetings of FOLUR partners and CPs especially associated with Global Landscape Forum.
- 2) Create linkages and synergies with the Global Platform on training, technical assistance and analysis on innovation on a prioritized basis that meets the needs of several countries in a commodity space.
- 3) Create linkages and synergies with the Global Platform to support in documentation and sharing of best practices and success stories at global level through different platforms and on line communications channels.

1.4. Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

The project is consistent with the eligibility criteria and priorities of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-TF) as it will support the Government of Uganda to address the drivers and barriers of integrated landscape management in *order to achieve sustainable food production systems that enhance ecosystems functionality and livelihoods*. The project also addresses the GEF-7 programming directions: BD-1-1 (Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors); BD-2-7 (Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate); CCM-2-6 (Demonstrate mitigation options with systemic impacts for food systems, land use and restoration impact program); LD-1-1 (Maintain or improve the flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM)) - This involves the development of inclusive and responsible crop production systems and value chains; and LD-3-4 (Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape).

The project will contribute towards the achievement of a number of CBD Aichi Targets, namely: Target 5 by addressing the rate of loss of all natural habitats (including forests) in the Mt. Elgon landscape, degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced; Target 7 by promoting sustainable management of areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, ensuring conservation of biodiversity; Target 11 by contributing to effective and equitable conservation of the ecologically representative protected areas and other effective area based conservation measures in the Mt. Elgon landscape; Target 14 through restoration of ecosystems that provide essential services, including livelihoods and wellbeing while taking into account the needs of women, indigenous people and other local communities, and the poor and vulnerable; Target 15 through enhancement of ecosystem resilience and contribution of biodiversity conservation and carbon stocks through conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The project will specifically contribute to specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicators namely: Indicator 12.2 by contributing to achieving the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources; Indicator 15.3 by restoring degraded land and soil, including land affected by drought and floods, and striving to achieve a land degradation neutral world. This project will also contribute to achieving the climate change targets, namely: Target 13.1 (Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related disasters), Target 13.2 (Integrating climate change measures into policies and planning), Target 13.3 (Building knowledge and capacity to meet climate change), Target 13A (Implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) and Target 13.B (Promote mechanisms to raise capacity for planning and management). In addition, the project will particularly contribute to land degradation neutrality (LDN) at the national scale through (i) avoidance of land degradation in stable agricultural land or intact natural systems using Sustainable Land Management

(SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) practices, that for example, increase tree or forest cover, and wetland cover, (ii) reducing the rate of degradation in partly degraded areas (i.e. areas with declining or stressed land productivity using practices that increase soil organic matter, conserve water, reduce erosion or correct degradation processes through interventions such as strategic reforestation, (iii) reversal of land degradation through restoration or rehabilitation of degraded unproductive land using substantial and possibly transformational measures to enhance productivity. In this way, the achievement of LDN will contribute to cutting emissions in the energy, forestry and wetland sectors in line with the NDC 2030 targets.

The project has a transnational link to the proposed GEF-7 FOLUR child project 'Integrated Landscape Management for conservation and restoration of the Mt. Elgon Ecosystem in western Kenya' which will be implemented in Bungoma and Trans-Zoia Counties in the Mt. Elgon ecosystem. These two GEF-7 FOLUR child projects are complementary since both aim at addressing the drivers of the negative outcomes and governance barriers that prevent the achievement of secure ecosystems and livelihoods in a critical and fragile transboundary ecosystem. In addition to the aforementioned GEF-7 FOLUR Kenya project, this GEF-TF Uganda child project also has secondary alignment with the LDCF/SCCF project 'Reviewing high quality coffee to stimulate climate adaptation in smallholder farming communities' developed by IUCN and Nespresso which will be implemented in Mt. Elgon, the Ruwenzori and West Nile regions of Uganda. The areas of alignment and synergy are in biodiversity conservation, climate change, land degradation neutrality and the promotion of the three FOLUR IP objectives, i.e. by promoting: (a) sustainable food systems to meet growing local demand, (b) deforestation-free agricultural commodity supply chains, and (c) restoration of degraded landscapes for sustainable production and to maintain ecosystem services. Therefore, the project will provide many experiences and lessons to share with other similar areas of Uganda, regionally and globally, enabling scaling up and out for greater global environmental and livelihood benefits.

The four components of the project are directly aligned to the four components mentioned in the FOLUR Program's Theory of Change (ToC), namely: 1) Development of Integrated Landscape Management Systems, 2) Promotion of sustainable food production practices and responsible commodity value chains; 3) Restoration of natural habitats; and 4) Global Platform: Coordination, Collaboration, Monitoring and Evaluation. Under component 1, the project will implement activities that will develop a comprehensive land use plan for the landscape as a basis for integrated land management. This component will address the governance barriers/gaps defined in the Impact Program's ToC, namely: a) Weak planning processes and landscape management; b) Conflicting policies; c) Institutional capacity and collaboration on landscape goals; and d) Participation/inclusion of stakeholders/land users. Under component 2, the sustainable production of coffee and other staple crops will be promoted. This addresses the following 'Contributing Drivers' as defined in the Impact Program's ToC: a) Agricultural expansion, unsustainable practices; b) Commodity value chains unresponsive; c) Knowledge gaps on sustainable production practices; and d) Insufficient scale of financing and fragmentation. Under component 3, the project will improve habitats in the Mt. Elgon landscape for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and carbon stocks. This addresses agricultural expansion and unsustainable practices as defined in the Impact Program's ToC. Under component 4, the project will improve knowledge on Integrated Landscape Management approaches at landscape, national and regional levels and addresses most of the 'Proximate and Underlying Causes' listed in the Impact Program's TOC.

The outcomes of the Uganda project also align directly with the outcomes listed in the Impact Program's TOC. The project will contribute directly to the following Impact Program Outcomes: 1) Integrated landscapes with: a) Improved planning and management practices; b) Clarified inst. mandates and compatible incentives, c) Reduced conversion and degradation of forests and natural habitats, and d) Increased restoration of agricultural and environmental services; 2) Commodity and food production systems with: a) Producers investing in sustainable and responsible practices, b) Clarified institutional mandates, policies and incentives, c) Increased resilience, diversity and reduced degradation, d) Sustainability standards in place; 3) Commodity value chains with: a) More investment in sustainable practices, and b) Uptake of lessons, tools, innovations.

1.5. Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

Component 1: Integrated Mt. Elgon Landscape Management System and institutional frameworks and improved governance

This component: (1) seeks to simultaneously improve food production, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, and rural livelihoods through integrated landscape planning; (2) works at a landscape scale and includes participatory planning, inter-sectoral policy alignment, and supportive natural resources governance and institutional frameworks at landscape scale; (3) involves inter-sectoral coordination and alignment of policies and activities, and investments at the level of ministries, local government entities, farmer and community organizations, NGOs, and the private sector; (4) activities are highly participatory, supporting adaptive and collaborative landscape management within a social learning framework; (5) brings together different stakeholders, in different sectors and at different scales to work together to coordinate action, align goals, and/or reduce trade-offs in biodiversity conservation and land degradation neutrality; (6) promotes greater democratic control, collaborative community management, bolstering local autonomy by building local capacities for governance and management, and, correspondingly, reducing dependence on exogenous support; and (7) approach resolves both collaborative challenges and conflicts, as well as resource deficiencies and crises, enabling stakeholders to find long lasting solutions to their collective needs and action.

This component, therefore, enhances the delivery of multiple benefits from the Mt. Elgon landscape by increasing synergies and minimizing or mitigating trade-offs among food production, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem service provision, and poverty alleviation. The incremental benefits are in several impact outcomes, namely: (i) Enhanced Production in production landscapes: The ILM ensures that, the landscape provides for the sustainable production of crops, livestock, fish, forest, and wild edible resources. The value chains that enable these resources to be exploited for human benefits are maintained or enhanced; (ii) Enhanced Conservation outcomes: The Mt. Elgon landscape will be able to conserve, maintain, and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services, including the maintenance of the diversity of species and habitats that comprise the landscape. The enhanced diversity will enable the landscape to adapt to changing conditions, for instance to climate change; (iii) Enhanced community livelihoods: The landscape will be able to sustain or enhance the livelihoods and well-being of all social groups who reside in the Mt. Elgon landscape. Social capital and the interests of minorities and marginalised groups such as the *Benet* living in the landscape will be maintained or enhanced; (iv) Strengthened landscape institutional and governance frameworks: The landscape-scale institutions will be able to support the integration of conservation, production, and livelihood functions into their development plans and budgets, creating a sustainable and productive landscape that enhances community livelihoods and reduces poverty, hence reducing pressures from HVCFs. This will be further enhanced by the strengthened many landscape approaches and enhanced capacity and functionality of the natural resources governance frameworks as well as individual capabilities in ILM and planning. In addition, inclusiveness and sustainability is created through breaking of barriers hindering women, men, vulnerable groups from participating in ILM approaches, further enhancing the multi-functionality of the landscape which results in better biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, and local livelihood outcomes.

Component 2: Sustainable coffee and staple crops production practices and responsible value chains

The initiatives and activities of this component reconcile farming and biodiversity conservation and respond to the immediate threats of biodiversity loss and unsustainable farming in the production landscapes outside the Mt. Elgon National Park, a HVCF. Overall, the component activities fulfil human livelihood needs, sustain yields, conserve indigenous and smallholder agroecosystems and associated knowledge and culture, diversify on farm products, minimize reliance on non-organic agricultural inputs and enhances biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. The component outcomes and outputs ensure that, there are sustainable and resilient coffee and other crops value chains in the Mt. Elgon landscape, in which, conservation and agricultural production objectives

are accomplished in mutually reinforcing ways. Incentive mechanisms are provided to incentivise restoration efforts supported by enhanced capacity of smallholder farmers and district local government staff.

The incremental outcome impacts of this component is that, it acts as a scalable model for application in similar ecosystems in Uganda, hence contributing to maintenance or increase in biodiversity in agro-ecological ecosystems in Uganda as well as improvement of livelihoods, which translates into improved landscape management, increased agricultural productivity and production, increased incomes, reduction in poverty and reduced pressure on the HVCF, increasing biodiversity and climate change mitigation. Overall, the component initiatives and activities fulfil human livelihood needs, sustain yields, conserve indigenous and smallholder agroecosystems and associated knowledge and culture, diversify products, minimize reliance on external inputs and enhances biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. The strengthening of alliances among farmers, agronomists, extension workers, foresters, conservation biologists and the private sector will promote ecologically sustainable production systems and lead to genuinely collaborative approaches to biodiversity conservation and food security. The active participation of the more than 240,000 farmers (119,000 males and 121,000 females) comprising of 48,501 households of smallholder coffee and food crop farmers in the coffee and food crop value chains will be critical for long-term conservation gains. These gains include; (i) plant and animal biodiversity conservation in production landscapes which increases the productivity of the landscape through nutrient recycling and pollination processes, ultimately increasing farm yields and incomes and livelihoods of local communities which reduces pressure from the unsustainable use of the HVCF products; (ii) improvement in the ecological conditions of the habitats, ecological communities, and ecosystem functions in the production landscapes which increases the productivity of the landscape through nutrient recycling and pollination processes, ultimately increasing farm yields and incomes and livelihoods of local communities which reduces pressure from the unsustainable use of the HVCF products; (iii) the agroforestry interventions will increase forest cover and maintain landscape connectivity which helps in retaining or increasing landscape resilience to human disturbance and climate change mitigation through GHGs sequestration; and (iv) the innovative interventions such as CSA & SLM, farm diversification, incentives (revolving funds and credit schemes), sustainable market linkages and responsible value chains reduce the vulnerability of local community to natural disasters and climate change and empowers them to conserve HVCF which maintains or enhances carbon stocks and biodiversity conservation and mitigates impacts of climate change.

Component 3: Natural habitat restoration

In this component, degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes (35,000 ha of degraded farmland and hilltops, 20,000 ha of degraded forest and wetlands areas) will be restored. Reforestation efforts will include diverse mixtures of native tree species, including species that provide resources to wildlife and species that have high timber value and provide future income to local farmers. Natural regeneration will be facilitated by retaining isolated trees and forest patches or live fences that serve as nuclei for natural regeneration. The use of enrichment planting in fallows can also be done to facilitate soil restoration. Economic instruments (Community Environment Conservation Funds, CECF) will be used to encourage farmers to retain tree cover and adopt biodiversity-friendly cropping systems.

The incremental outcome impacts of the component are; (i) plant and animal biodiversity is conserved in the production landscapes, hence maintaining or increasing biodiversity therein which increases the productivity of the landscape through nutrient recycling and pollination processes, ultimately increasing farm yields and incomes and livelihoods of local communities which reduces pressure from the unsustainable use of the HVCF products; (ii) degraded habitats, ecological communities, and ecosystems in the production landscapes outside the HVCF will be restored which enhances the biodiversity therein and increases the productivity of the landscape through nutrient recycling and pollination processes, ultimately increasing farm yields and incomes and livelihoods of local communities which reduces pressure from the unsustainable use of the HVCF products; (iii) the

restored degraded lands will buffer the existing protected areas, increase forest cover and maintain landscape connectivity which helps in retaining or increasing landscape resilience to human disturbance and climate change mitigation through GHGs sequestration; and (iv) the innovative incentive finance schemes for forest landscape restoration (FLR) such as the CECF reduce the vulnerability of local community to natural disasters and climate change and empowers them to participate in FLR which maintains or enhances carbon stocks and biodiversity conservation and mitigates impacts of climate change.

Component 4: Knowledge management (generation, sharing, learning and scaling up).

The focus of this component is to ensure that, sector agencies and relevant institutions adopt and are applying ILM approaches in their planning and policies. By adopting, applying and scaling up and out SLM technologies and practices as nature based solutions to address drivers of deforestation and forest and land degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change, the actions will simultaneously address DLN, climate change mitigation, while achieving other co-benefits, such as protection of biodiversity and securing the quantity and quality of soil and water resources. The secured ecosystem services will then support production of food to society, regulate risks of natural hazards such as landslides in Mt. Elgon, and provide economic, cultural and spiritual services for human well-being. In summary, the incremental benefits will be: (i) Increased and stabilized crop productivity through combinations of vegetation management, crop diversification, soil fertility and sustainable soil and water management practices leading to increased incomes, poverty reduction and reduced pressure on the HVCF from the local communities; (ii) Enhanced forest cover through afforestation, reforestation, and sustainable and adaptive management, while reducing deforestation will substantially increase forest carbon stocks which will mitigate climate change and conserve biodiversity while preventing land degradation and increasing the resilience of forest-dependent communities and enabling forest ecosystems to adapt to extreme events, such as heat waves, droughts, floods, landslides, and sand and dust storms, as well as pest and disease control, further enhancing societal and ecological resilience to climate change; and (iii) Adoption of agroforestry practices and mixed farming systems will contribute to increased soil quality and carbon sequestration, maintenance of soil fertility and nutrient cycling and control soil erosion, while providing food and income to local communities and enhancing community resilience to climate change leading to increased incomes, poverty reduction and reduced pressure on the HVCF from the local communities which results in improved biodiversity conservation.

1.6. Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

At the global level, the project will specifically contribute to specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicators namely: Indicator 12.2 by contributing to achieving the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources; Indicator 15.3 by restoring degraded land and soil, including land affected by drought and floods, and striving to achieve a land degradation neutral world. This project will also contribute to achieving the climate change targets, namely: Target 13.1 (Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related disasters), Target 13.2 (Integrating climate change measures into policies and planning), Target 13.3 (Building knowledge and capacity to meet climate change), Target 13A (Implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) and Target 13.B (Promote mechanisms to raise capacity for planning and management). In addition, the project will particularly contribute to land degradation neutrality (LDN) at the national scale through (i) avoidance of land degradation in stable agricultural land or intact natural systems using Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) practices, that for example, increase tree or forest cover, and wetland cover, (ii) reducing the rate of degradation in partly degraded areas (i.e. areas with declining or stressed land productivity using practices that increase soil organic matter, conserve water, reduce erosion or correct degradation processes through interventions such as strategic reforestation, (iii) reversal of land degradation through restoration or rehabilitation of

degraded unproductive land using substantial and possibly transformational measures to enhance productivity. In this way, the achievement of LDN will contribute to cutting emissions in the energy, forestry and wetland sectors in line with the NDC 2030 targets.

The project will, therefore, strengthen the national policy, legal and regulatory framework for integrated landscape management, SLM, climate change and biodiversity through a range of training, awareness-building, supportive information management and demonstration of best practices. The project will contribute to Uganda's commitment to restore 2.5 million ha of forest under AFR100; to scaling up national, sub-national and local use of Land Degradation Neutrality target setting tools in monitoring, planning and decision support for investments; ensuring household food and nutrition security; increasing income of farming households, creating on-farm and off-farm employment opportunities and improving value addition to agriculture products under the Agriculture Sector Development Strategy and Investment Plan; National Coffee Roadmap, advancing sustainable coffee production; creating green jobs and improving livelihoods of subsistence farmers in line with Uganda Vision 2040. This will make it possible to develop incentives for integrated landscape management and conservation of biological diversity, which will contribute to efforts by the government and international community to halt food insecurity, biodiversity loss and reduce the impacts of climate change. Ultimately, the project will demonstrate the benefits of conservation and efficient land use.

1.7. Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?

1.7.1. Innovativeness

The project will promote and influence policy on Integrated Landscape Management approach at sub-national/landscape/national level. The project will enhance landscape-level governance frameworks by strengthening local institutions, local authorities & protected area management to work collaboratively within the landscape. To incentivize ILM and promote adoption and upscaling, the project will promote community environment action fund, a revolving fund as an incentive for communities to plan and restore degraded landscapes and conserve biodiversity in agricultural lands. The project will address threats generated by the expansion of the agricultural frontier, land degradation and extreme climatic events on the environment and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in the Mt. Elgon ecosystem. To keep abreast of developments in best-bet innovations, the most cost-effective options for promotion (scaling up and integration) will be used to improve production. Innovative interventions such as CSA & SLM, farm diversification, incentives (revolving funds and credit schemes), sustainable market linkages and responsible value chains reduce the vulnerability of local community to natural disasters and climate change and empowers them to conserve HVCF which maintains or enhances carbon stocks and biodiversity conservation and mitigates impacts of climate change.

1.7.2. Sustainability

The Project has been designed to remove the identified barriers and create an enabling environment and institutional framework for the implementation of Climate-Smart Agriculture and promote actions with

scaling up potential both at national and landscape levels. The capacitated government institutions, communities and stakeholders will be able to give continuity to the activities undertaken by the Project. There will be opportunity to collaborate with similar projects and agencies that are active in the Mt. Elgon region, such as Nespresso. Specifically, the following factors that encourage social, environmental, economic and capacity development sustainability dimensions will be addressed by the project:

a) *Environmental sustainability:* Project activities will directly or indirectly contribute to environmental sustainability through: (i) Institutional strengthening of government agencies dealing with environmental issues; (ii) Development and implementation of a participatory ILM Landscape Management Plan; (iii) Mainstreaming of the ILM and SLM approaches including biodiversity conservation in development plans; (iv) Capacity development of institutional stakeholders who manage natural resources; (v) Improving financial sustainability of environmental-friendly and innovative initiatives such as promoting the Community Environment Conservation Fund (CECF) incentive mechanisms to finance FLR and sustainable agriculture production; and (vi) Sharing lessons learned and good practices on sustainable natural resources management practices which enables adoption, replication and scaling up and out. The project will promote sustainability by strengthening (through formation of additional structures and training) of Water Use Committees (WUCs), Catchment Management Committees (CMCs) at Catchment level, Sub-Catchment Management Committees (SCMCs) at Sub-Catchment level and Micro-Catchment Management Committees (MCMCs) at Micro-Catchment level. These committees will be trained about their roles and responsibilities in implementing and sustaining the identified project interventions; concepts, principles and good practices of; SLM, Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change, Landscape Approaches, IWRM, Soil and Water Conservation and Landscape Restoration among others. In addition, environmental sustainability will be ensured by the strengthening of the Mt. Elgon Stakeholders' Forum (MESF), an organization that was formed in 2012 and comprises of both state and non-state stakeholders through training and formation of structures. Local communities and farmers will also be trained on agroforestry tree species and Napier grass systems application in each village as a sustainability, adoption and replication strategy. In the coffee and other food crops sectors, sustainability will be ensured through the project interventions of: (i) strengthening corporate responsibility systems and mechanisms (ii) carbon neutrality, (iii) training and empowerment of the private sector, farmers, extension agents and producing communities, (iv) welfare of farmers and factory workers, and (v) impact on local biodiversity since certified farms tend to have high biodiversity and also serve as links between forest fragments, creating wildlife corridors that provide vital habitat for migratory species.

b) *Financial and economic sustainability:* The activities promoted by the project will contribute to the financial and economic sustainability of the rural beneficiaries by improving their livelihoods. Sustainable agriculture practices and coffee and staple food crops value chains will improve long-term financial sustainability through training, upfront investment and risk management during transition. The project will facilitate the transition to improved production systems by alleviating these constraints. The project will promote inter-institutional collaboration, networking and coordination that will enable the increase of resources channelled through monetary and non-monetary incentive

mechanisms to the agriculture and forestry sectors. Catalyzing and facilitating their access to financing sources will increase producers and communities' investments in ILM/SLM. These initiatives are implementable and will ensure adoption, replication and scaling up and out.

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c) Social sustainability: Project social sustainability will be achieved through: (i) Capacity development; (ii) Gender equality and gender mainstreaming at institutional and community levels; (iii) Participatory approaches; (iv) Food security; and (v) Ownership; by the project:

- Addressing capacity development issues of: i) small-scale farmers, households and female-led households; ii) national and sub-national government institutions, networks, associations and platforms; and iii) the policy enabling environment on SLM and ILM.

- Applying the gender approach in all the four project components. In this regard, the project log frame includes gender outcomes, outputs and indicators to monitor progress towards gender outcomes. Targeted activities that address project-specific gender gaps in the identified project outcomes and outputs will be implemented during project implementation. During implementation, the project will carry out project specific gender analyses and develop a Gender Action Plan (GAP) and the GAP will identify and support opportunities to include women in the project activities' implementation.

- Using participatory approaches during implementation through multi-stakeholder workshops, thematic round tables, and action plans validation processes that will be applied to policy and Land Use Dialogues (LUDs) during participatory planning processes, ILM/SLM, alternative livelihoods strategies, and incentive mechanisms.

- Promoting sustainable agriculture management practices in order to increase farmers and coffee producers' productivity and capacity for adaptation to climate change and reduce their economic losses due to drought, floods and landslides. Project activities will focus on increasing agriculture production efficiency in a sustainable manner, avoiding agriculture frontier expansion, forest and land degradation and improving livelihoods of the vulnerable rural population for a focus on vulnerable individuals and households.

- Strengthening the governance and technical capabilities of the national and sub-national government institutions, producer associations, private sector and local communities so as to maximize the institutionalism of multiple public and private sector stakeholders in the design of policies and strategies on sustainable management of natural resources, agriculture production and forestry. The training will ensure the participation of beneficiaries and their ownership of best practices and SLM/ILM concepts will contribute to the sustainability of the acquired capacities. Lessons learned will also contribute to capacity development sustainability and scaling up and out.

1.7.3. Potential for scaling up

The potential for scaling up of the project is very high given its complementarity with national policies and development. The development of the Landscape Management Plan will allow the up-take of integrated landscape planning and management and, sustainable natural resources management at the national and district levels. The mainstreaming of environmental issues in sectoral policies and development plans and budgets will allow replicating the experience to the entire Mt. Elgon ecosystem and similar ecosystems/landscapes. Strengthening of national and landscape coordination mechanisms and provision of incentive mechanisms as well as implementation of good practices and appropriate technologies on ILM and SLM to be shared by the Project will be replicable in similar ecosystems/landscapes in Uganda. Sharing of experiences and lessons learned will serve to promote the replication of project results to the rest of the ecosystems/landscapes as well as to other landscapes with similar ecosystems beyond Uganda. In this regard, UNEP and project IPs will share information on project lessons learned and outcomes with other GEF FOLUR projects in the Region and Global Platforms so that other countries with similar interests and initiatives can learn on Project's results. In particular, the project will liaise with and share experiences and knowledge with the Global Landscape Forum (GLF) and the Global Agenda for Sustainable Coffee Production among others.

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[2]Source: <http://trends.earth> Trends.Earth calculates soil organic carbon change based on annual land cover transitions. This table shows change in soil organic carbon based on the baseline and target years only. The target year soil organic carbon value used to produce this table accounts for all land cover transitions that occurred between the baseline and target years. An empty cell indicates that transition was not observed over the time period.

[3]Source: <http://trends.earth>. In terms of land condition, HOT SPOT areas are those with declining, moderate decline and stressed conditions. (1) Declining (degraded land, unproductive areas) are for restorative interventions (rehabilitation); (2) Moderate decline (partly degraded, areas with reduced productivity) require interventions that reduce rate of degradation; (3) Stressed (initial signs of degradation) areas require interventions that reduce rate of degradation; (4) Stable (with low probability of land degradation, not degraded, productive [possibly agricultural or conservation land]) areas represent an acceptable and satisfactory situation which require interventions aimed at preventing or avoiding land degradation; (5) Areas with increasing productivity represent improving situation from degraded state and therefore require interventions as for stable productivity.

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[20]Source: <http://trends.earth> Trends.Earth calculates soil organic carbon change based on annual land cover transitions. This table shows change in soil organic carbon based on the baseline and target years only. The target year soil organic carbon value used to produce this table accounts for all land cover transitions that occurred between the baseline and target years. An empty cell indicates that transition was not observed over the time period.

[21]Source: <http://trends.earth>. In terms of land condition, HOT SPOT areas are those with declining, moderate decline and stressed conditions. (1) Declining (degraded land, unproductive areas) are for restorative interventions (rehabilitation); (2) Moderate decline (partly degraded, areas with reduced productivity) require interventions that reduce rate of degradation; (3) Stressed (initial signs of degradation) areas require interventions that reduce rate of degradation; (4) Stable (with low probability of land degradation, not degraded, productive [possibly agricultural or conservation land]) areas represent an acceptable and satisfactory situation which require interventions aimed at preventing or avoiding land degradation; (5) Areas with increasing productivity represent improving situation from degraded state and therefore require interventions as for stable productivity.

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1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

Location: 0° 49' 0.00" - 1° 24' 59.99" N and 34° 08' 60.00" - 34° 43' 59.99" E

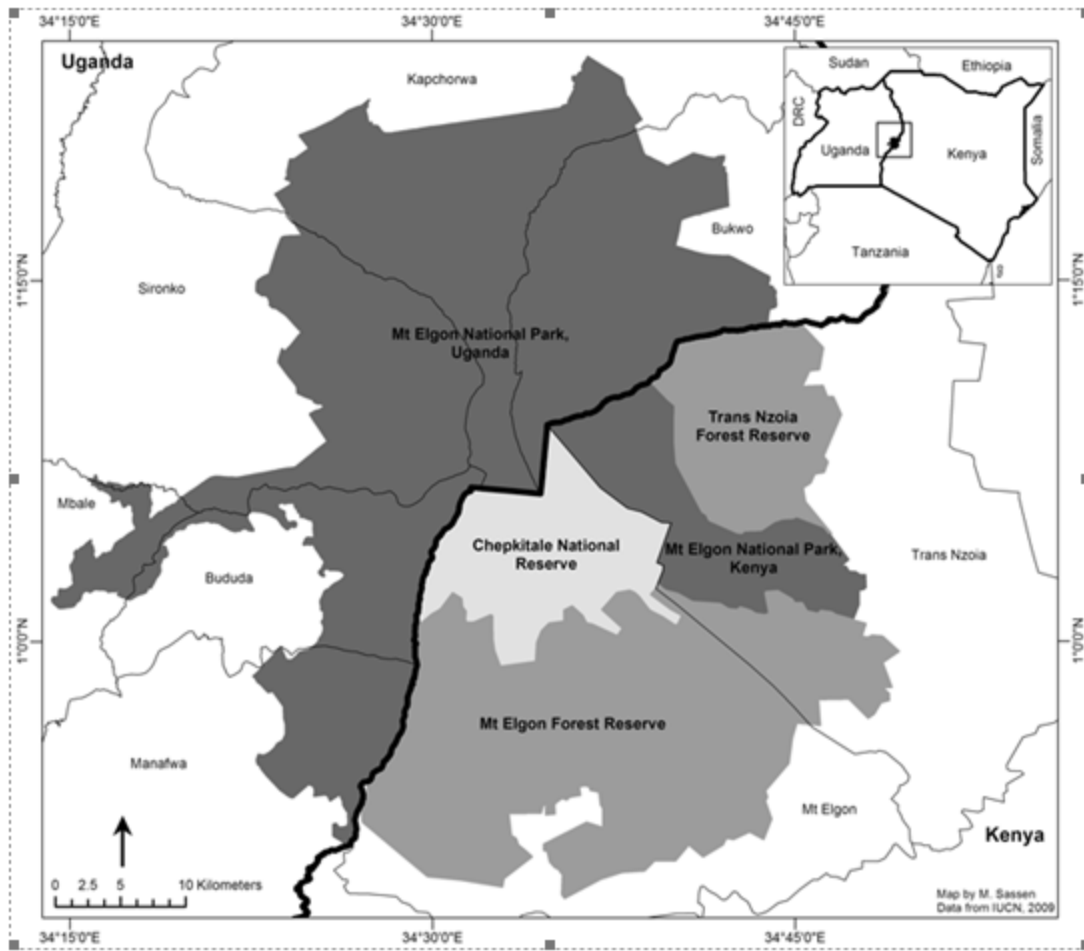


Figure 1: Location of the Mt. Elgon trans-boundary landscape in eastern Uganda and western Kenya

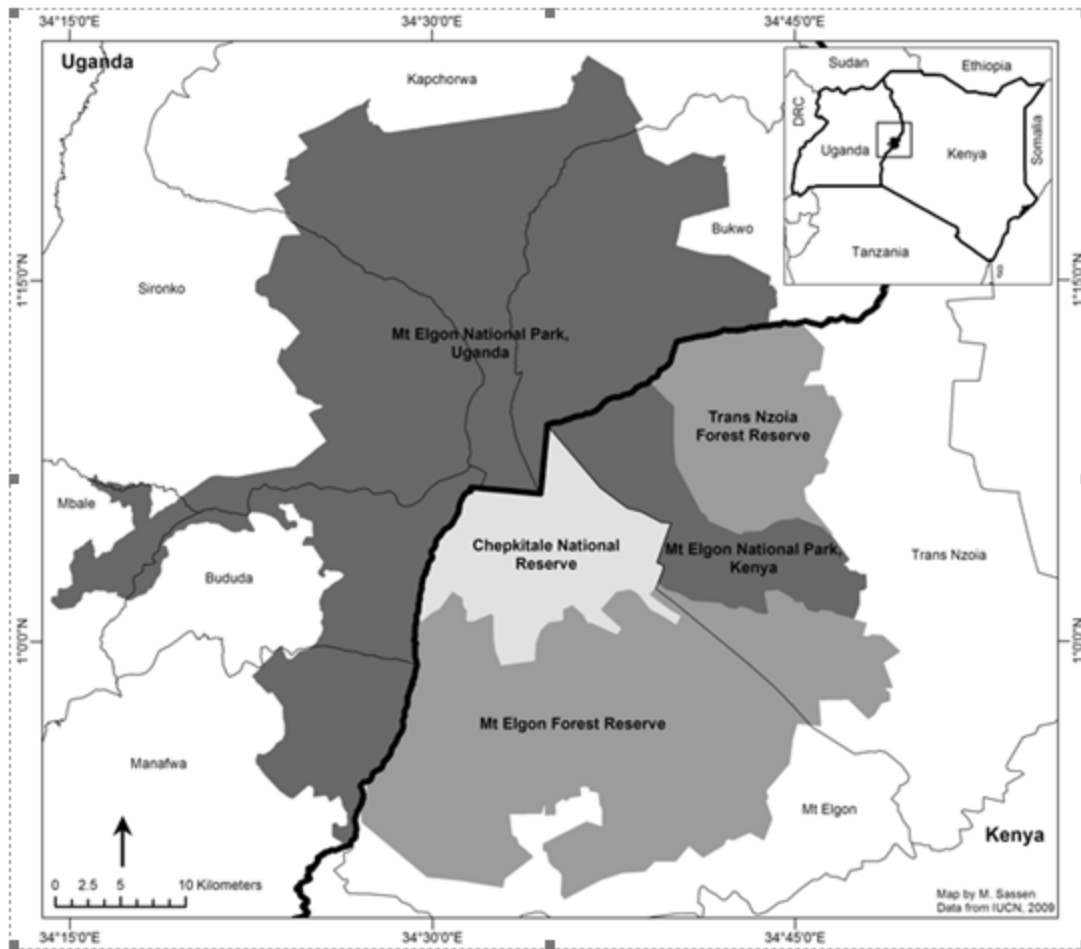


Figure 1: Location of the Mt. Elgon trans-boundary landscape in eastern Uganda and western Kenya

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

The four components of the project are directly aligned to the four components mentioned in the FOLUR Program's Theory of Change (ToC), namely: 1) Development of Integrated Landscape Management Systems, 2) Promotion of sustainable food production practices and responsible commodity value chains; 3) Restoration of natural habitats; and 4) Global Platform: Coordination, Collaboration, Monitoring and Evaluation. Under component 1, the project will implement activities that will develop a comprehensive land use plan for the landscape as a basis for integrated land management. This component will address the governance barriers/gaps defined in the Impact Program's ToC, namely: a) Weak planning processes and landscape management; b) Conflicting policies; c) Institutional capacity and collaboration on landscape goals; and d) Participation/inclusion of stakeholders/land users. Under component 2, the sustainable production of coffee and other staple crops will be promoted. This addresses the following 'Contributing Drivers' as defined in the Impact Program's ToC: a) Agricultural expansion, unsustainable practices; b) unresponsive commodity value chains; c) Knowledge gaps on sustainable production practices; and d) Insufficient scale of financing and fragmentation. Under component 3, the project will improve habitats in the Mt. Elgon landscape for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and carbon stocks. This addresses agricultural expansion and unsustainable practices as defined in the Impact Program's ToC. Under component 4, the project will improve knowledge on Integrated Landscape Management approaches at landscape, national and regional levels and addresses most of the 'Proximate and Underlying Causes' listed in the Impact Program's TOC. The outcomes of the Uganda project also align directly with the outcomes listed in the Impact Program's TOC. The project will contribute directly to the following Impact Program Outcomes: 1) Integrated landscapes with: a) Improved planning and management practices; b) Clarified institutional mandates and compatible incentives, c) Reduced conversion and degradation of forests and natural habitats, and d) Increased restoration of agricultural and environmental services; 2) Commodity and food production systems with: a) Producers investing in sustainable and responsible practices, b) Clarified institutional mandates, policies and incentives, c) Increased resilience, diversity and reduced degradation, d) Sustainability standards in place; 3) Commodity value chains with: a) More investment in sustainable practices, and b) Uptake of lessons, tools, innovations.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

1. Stakeholders

To ensure strong country ownership, and in line with the stakeholder engagement requirements outlined in UNEP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES), the PPG Phase of the project was undertaken in full consultation and engagement with different actors including government, academia, research, CSOs, private sector and local communities. According to the Environment Impact Assessment regulations of Uganda[1], public consultation is included in the project development process where a project may significantly affect the environment, and environmental and social impact assessment is required.

During project development, there were a series of engagements involving information sharing and consultation activities with a range of project stakeholders. Detailed stakeholder consultations were held during the project preparatory phase (PPG) to identify and clarify complementarities, overlaps, synergies and leverage support from other projects and activities. The stakeholder consultations during PPG enabled the project to formalize in-country coordination with other GEF-financed and other donor-funded projects that will continue throughout the project period. The stakeholders included national government agencies, local authorities, training and research institutions, civil society organizations, private sector and local communities. After GEF approval of the Project Information Form (PIF), the PPG phase commenced with the recruitment of an international consultant. However, the PPG phase was interrupted by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic which made government impose restrictions to curb spread of the pandemic. With the help of several stakeholders constituted into a Technical Working Group (TWG) and using virtual consultations, it was possible to undertake extensive consultations (see Annexes 1-5), carry out a field visit for baseline analysis on 6 ? 12 September 2020 and holding a stakeholder meeting from 22 to 25 September 2020. During the field visit, local communities were given the opportunity to express their needs, expectations and concerns regarding the project. The main conclusions of these consultations have been considered in the project document.

During implementation, the project's main stakeholders (See Stakeholder Engagement Plan ? Appendix 15) will continue to be engaged through workshops that will be focused on: (a) integrated landscape approaches to be adopted at landscape and national level, (b) strengthening institutional and governance systems for implementation of the integrated landscape plan, (c) promoting sustainable coffee and staple crops production practices in the Mt. Elgon ecosystem, (d) improving sustainable market linkages and responsible value chains for coffee and staple crops, (e) improving the habitats for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and carbon stocks, and (f) improving knowledge on Integrated Landscape Management approaches at landscape, national and regional levels. The stakeholders will be encouraged to share their feedback during the workshops and through other communication channels. In addition, under the project, a Technical Working Group will be established to provide backstopping during implementation. The group will provide a forum for continuous participation in improvements of ILM approaches in Uganda.

NEMA and project partners have a long experience of work in the Mt. Elgon landscape. As such, they have an on-going relationship with the communities in the region. Overall, the stakeholder engagement processes to be employed will be consultative, interactive and participatory in nature. The engagement process will be at different levels: (i) National level; (ii) Landscape/Regional level; (iii) District level; (iv) sub-county level; and (v) Village level. Stakeholder engagement will focus on all categories of stakeholders; Central Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, CSO, PSO, faith-based organizations, traditional institutions and research and academic institutions. The PMU and project implementing partners will, nevertheless, undertake continuous stakeholder engagements at various levels in order to promptly: (i) identify, capture and adequately address stakeholders' concerns and potential risks; (ii) further and properly consult groups and peoples whose lives might be affected by the project to verify and assess the significance of any impacts and device mitigation measures; and (iii) ensure equitable and gender-balanced and sensitive participation of the affected groups and communities in the development of mitigation measures, decision making processes, and in the monitoring and evaluation of project implementation.

The Project will put in place mechanisms for internal controls and enforcement of compliance reinforced by participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and feed-back mechanisms from

external parties. This will include establishing participatory M&E frameworks and public disclosure requirements to assure public access to relevant information about the project and mechanisms to capture concerns or grievances related to the project's lack of compliance, if any. The project will employ targeted tools to incorporate stakeholder inputs into the project design, implementation and M&E Frameworks and these include but are not limited to: (i) Gender mapping: Transect walks / Landscape Analysis; (ii) Timeline and Trends Analysis; (iii) Livelihood Analysis; and (iv) Problem and Solution Matrix. The scale and intensity of stakeholder engagement will be commensurate to the concerns expressed or expected from stakeholders and the magnitude of potential risks. Engagement strategies will be tailored to individual stakeholder groups to reflect their concerns and their rights to land and natural resources will entail awareness-raising and capacity-strengthening activities. The engagement process will ensure the meaningful consultation of all stakeholders in order to facilitate their informed participation on matters that affect them directly, proposed mitigation measures, the sharing of development benefits and opportunities, and implementation issues.

Since the project is mainly concerned with the integrated landscape management of Mt. Elgon ecosystem, it is likely that there may be some grievances, especially during negotiations and signing of agreements. The project will address all issues brought to its attention responsibly and transparently. A Grievance Resolution Mechanism (GRM) will be put in place for reporting, assessing, and addressing all complaints. A complaint in this regard is "an expression of a problem, dissatisfaction, claim or grievance filed by an individual or a group within the communities affected by the operations of the project[2]. The complaints may arise from grievances which could include physical or financial damage; risks linked to health, safety, and the environment; all forms of harassment; and improper or immoral behavior. Grievance is any discontent or dissatisfaction that affects the project's performance. When the project fails to satisfy a stakeholder's needs, a feeling of discontent or dissatisfaction may be developed and if it is unattended to or the conditions causing it are not corrected, the irritation is likely to lead to unfavorable attitude towards the project and this will in turn affect the delivery of the project's outputs, outcomes and overall result[3],[4]. Any individual or community who will feel negatively affected by the project's activities will be free to file a complaint. All complaints received from the local communities will be accepted, analyzed, and processed.

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Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Please see the attached Stakeholder Engagement Plan

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

During implementation, the project's main stakeholders (as outlined in Table 1 of the attached stakeholder engagement plan) will continue to be engaged through workshops that will focused on: (a) integrated landscape approaches to be adopted at landscape and national level, (b) strengthening institutional and governance systems for implementation of the integrated landscape plan, (c) promoting sustainable coffee and staple crops production practices in the Mt. Elgon ecosystem, (d) improving sustainable market linkages and responsible value chains for coffee and staple crops, (e) improving the habitats for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and carbon stocks, and (f) improving knowledge on Integrated Landscape Management approaches at landscape, national and regional levels. The stakeholders will be encouraged to share their feedback during the workshops and through other communication channels. In addition, under the project, a Technical Working Group will be established to provide backstopping during implementation. The group will provide a forum for continuous participation in improvements of ILM approaches in Uganda.

Table of Key stakeholders, their mandates and role in the project

Name of Stakeholder	Relevant mandate	Role in the Project
Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED)	Mobilizing and regulating management of financial resources and formulating policies to enhance economic stability and development in Uganda.	The ministry will continue to play a major role during project development and implementation. The ministry is the GEF national focal point and is responsible for receiving and disbursing project funds according to planned and approved schedules.
Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)	Developing, managing, and regulating water and environment resources in Uganda.	The ministry will be responsible for implementation of activities related to climate change impacts. The ministry is the national focal point for UNFCCC and will guide implementation of the decisions of the Conference of Parties (COP) relevant to the project.
Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities (MTWA)	Conservation of wildlife, and the preservation of natural and other national historic and cultural sites and monuments.	This ministry will provide technical guidance on natural resources in the protected areas of the Mt. Elgon ecosystem under the jurisdiction of the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA).
National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)	Coordinating, monitoring, regulating and supervising environmental management in Uganda.	NEMA will be responsible for project preparation and overall coordination of implementation, as well as taking the lead role in designing the project activities and restoration of fragile ecosystems. NEMA is the National Focal Point for the CBD and thus will also guide implementation of the decisions of the Conference of Parties (COP) relevant to the project.
National Planning Authority (NPA)	Produce comprehensive and integrated development plans for the country, elaborated in terms of the perspective Vision, long and medium-term plans.	NPA will provide guidance and ensure those project activities that are implemented are captured and contribute to the national planning outputs/outcomes.

Name of Stakeholder	Relevant mandate	Role in the Project
Ministry of Local Government (MLG)	Guide, harmonize, mentor and advocate for all local governments in support of the vision of government to bring about socio-economic transformation of the country.	Ensure that Local Governments comply with the statutory requirements and adhere to national policies and standards in the implementation of the project.
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)	Formulate, review and implement national policies, plans, strategies, regulations and standards and enforce laws, regulations and standards along the value chain of crops, livestock and fisheries.	The ministry will be responsible for implementing activities on SLM and CSA including on-farm diversification. The ministry, as a focal point for UNCCD, will also provide information and guidance from the Conference of Parties (COP) decisions.
Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD)	Mobilize and empower communities to harness their potential while, protecting the rights of vulnerable population groups.	The ministry will be responsible for ensuring that both women and men make crucial contributions in commodity value chains, SLM and CSA including on-farm diversification and forest restoration. The ministry will also ensure that the project adheres to occupational safety and social safeguard standards and rights of vulnerable populations.
National Forestry Authority (NFA)	Management of Central Forest Reserves	NFA will be responsible for initiating and providing technical guidance on project activities related to tree planting, forest restoration and conservation.
Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)	Ensure sustainable management of wildlife resources and supervise wildlife related activities in Uganda both within and outside Pas.	UWA will coordinate, oversee and guide wildlife management and conservation of resources adjacent to Mt. Elgon National Park and the protected ecosystem.
Local Governments	Ensure effective service delivery through strategic planning, equitable resource allocation, monitoring and reducing disparities so as to attain an inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development	Local Governments will be involved in overseeing, monitoring and coordinating project activities at district level while providing information necessary for ILM including designing of a resource mobilization strategy for sustaining project interventions after the project has ceased.
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Promote conservation of the integrity and diversity of nature by ensuring that any use of natural resources is judicious, equitable and ecologically sustainable.	IUCN will promote sustainable natural resource management and use through community-based natural resource management approaches including livelihood activities.

Name of Stakeholder	Relevant mandate	Role in the Project
World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)	Develop knowledge practices from farmers' fields to ensure food and nutrition security and environmental sustainability; options for halting and reversing land degradation and scaling up sustainable land management practices in fragile and high-risk areas.	ICRAF will provide information/data on different ILM practices and demonstrate the importance of trees in fields and farming landscapes for enhancing and sustaining crop yield and food and nutrition security in the Mt. Elgon ecosystem.
Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA)	Promote and oversee the coffee industry by supporting research, promoting production, controlling the quality and improving the marketing of coffee.	Promotion of sustainable coffee production, including, securing impact investment; quality coffee production and marketing
Bugisu Cooperative Union (BCU)	Coffee processing and sale.	Provide a ready market for farmers' coffee and promote livelihood improvement.
Sebei Cooperative Union (SCU)	Coffee processing and sale.	Provide a ready market for farmers' coffee and promote livelihood improvement.
Academia	Coordinate, oversee, guide and conduct training and research to support project implementation and attainment of outputs, outcomes and overall result.	Academic institutions will carry out research and design training activities for farmers and build capacity for integrated landscape management including provision of technical backstopping
Research institutions	Coordinate, oversee, guide and conduct research.	Research institutions will carry out strategic research to support project implementation, as well as document and disseminate best practices and lessons learnt including the provision of technical backstopping.
Development partners e.g. UN agencies (e.g. FAO, UNESCO), EU, World Bank	Provide and coordinate development assistance to Uganda through the Natural Resources Development Partner group.	The development partners will share their rich experiences and lessons on implementation of projects in the country, especially enhancing resilience of agricultural production systems, adaptation to climate change, integrated land management, integrated water resources management, wetlands and forest restoration, catchment-based natural resources management, impact investment and agricultural product (coffee, maize, banana and Irish potato) value chains.
Corresponding transboundary institutions in Kenya (e.g. KWS, KFS, county governments)	Sustainable management of transboundary natural resources (wildlife, forests, etc.) in Kenya and Uganda as the two countries share the Mt. Elgon transboundary ecosystem.	Kenya Wildlife Services and Kenya Forest Services will be key partners in implementation of the Kenya FOLUR child project 'Integrated Landscape Management for conservation and restoration of the Mt. Elgon Ecosystem in Western Kenya' which will be implemented in Bungoma and Trans-Zoia counties.

Name of Stakeholder	Relevant mandate	Role in the Project
Cultural institutions e.g. Sebei Cultural Centre, Inzhu ya Masaba	Preservation of culture, cultural heritage and cultural/traditional practices, promotion of unity, development and education within their ethnic groups	Lobbying and advocacy for Mount Elgon conservation; Community mobilization; Conflict resolution; and Cultural heritage promotion.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

Role civil society will play in the project:

Lack of organization and collective action by civil society organizations has been identified as one of the systemic challenges inherent in the region. This has been caused by, among others, poor communication and inadequate consultations. Within the Mt. Elgon landscape, civil society organizations are crucial in creating awareness for implementing socio-economic interventions for local livelihoods and will be important stakeholders in the project. During implementation, the CSOs will be engaged in mobilization and implementation of: (a) integrated landscape approaches to be adopted at landscape and national level, (b) institutional and governance systems for integrated landscape management, (c) sustainable coffee and staple crops production practices in the Mt. Elgon ecosystem, (d) sustainable market linkages and responsible value chains for coffee and staple crops, (e) habitat restoration for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and carbon stocks. The CSOs will be represented on the project steering committee and the technical working group which will be formed to steer the project.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

Uganda is signatory to a number of international and regional instruments which lay out a clear foundation for women's rights to resources and services including sexual reproductive health and rights, land and other productive resources (see Appendix 16 for a detailed background of Uganda's national and international commitments to gender equality). The Ugandan constitution grants women equality with men, men own, access or control most of the household resources. However, there is still a disconnect between Uganda's very positive legal framework and the lack of effective implementation or enforcement of gender-positive laws. Indeed, the Human Development Index for Uganda has been documented at 0.544 (ranking 159 out of 162 countries) while the Gender Development Index (GDI) has been documented as 0.863 (among the lowest 5 countries). The same report documents the Gender Inequality Index (GII) as 0.535 (131st of 162 countries) while the WEF's GGGI report documents the GII as 0.717 (65th out of 153 countries). The 'lack of control' of resources, and the associated lack of decision-making power, is by far the most important, and most complex, of the issues. The economic dependence of women, their lack of control over productive resources and assets is at the root of the problems women face.

Overall, in the Mount Elgon region women remain the biggest group of landless people and do not have the same rights in terms of land tenure and transactions. While women are in control of the food crops for domestic consumption, such as seasonal crops like bananas and beans, men control the perennial cash crop, such as coffee. Women are the main tillers of the land but have limited ability and incentives to improve and diversify their livelihoods and the overall diversity of land where they work. In any case, in the Mt. Elgon landscape, labour tends to be unequally distributed between men and women. Women are often overworked and lack proper control of the inputs and the outputs of land management, getting often discouraged and not putting much attention on protecting the land. In cases where there is surplus for sale, the men control the money and decide how much to give to women. They are responsible for household duties such as collecting water and firewood and cooking. Women also run the farm and spend much longer time on food production than men. They can spend 18 hours a day working in order to support their family. In contrast, men spend about 50% of their time on constructive work and spend the rest hanging out in trading centres. A gender analysis contained in the Mbale District Development Plan shows that literacy and education rates are higher for men than women and that men dominate meetings and participation, which makes them predominant in decision making.

Such gender inequality is significant and has important implications in terms of sustainable land management in the Mt. Elgon landscape. The project will therefore take a proactively gender-responsive approach at each stage and every level in which it will be working. The project (in Component 1, Output 1.1.4), will develop a gender action plan consisting of intervention pathways that unlock the barriers that currently prevent women smallholder farmers from participating in decision

making and benefiting equitably from government programmes. This will ensure that women benefit from greater livelihoods diversification, including in non-farm activities. At the core of this approach is a strong focus on the development of women as leaders and decision-makers, including within the Project Implementation team. In particular, women will be supported in becoming agents of decision making over livelihood options and choices through capacity building and knowledge management (Component 4).

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment? (yes)

The project will address this through a series of activities leading to adequate mainstreaming of gender equality and women empowerment in ILM practices. This will be operationalized through a Gender Action Plan (GAP) (Output 1.1.4 - Barriers hindering women as well as men from participating in ILM approaches identified and addressed). The GAP will prioritize gender-responsive measures and assess the potential implications, benefits and risks for women and men in ILM practices, ensuring their concerns and experiences are integrated into land use plans, monitoring and evaluation so that, gender inequalities and inequities are not perpetuated or exacerbated. Gender equality and women empowerment will be targeted in: i) the technical working group; ii) training sessions and workshops; and iii) any meetings that will be convened during the implementation of the project. Project activities will be informed by the Gender Action Plan that will be developed at the onset of the project. Gender mainstreaming will be incorporated into training topics so that female participants are empowered to participate meaningfully in the trainings. Trainers will be required to have the skills and experience necessary to plan and facilitate gender-sensitive training. To ensure that the progress of gender mainstreaming can be monitored throughout the project, sex disaggregated targets will be used to monitor indicators. In addition to gender awareness, the project will promote the requirements of other disadvantaged and more vulnerable groups including the elderly, children and the differently disabled persons.

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; yes

improving women's participation and decision making; yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.yes

Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators? (yes /no)

Outcome 1.1: Integrated landscape approaches adopted at Landscape and National Level (**Indicator:** Men and women participating in the implementation of ILM approaches in the Mt Elgon landscape and national levels); Outcome 1.2: Strengthened institutional and governance systems for implementation of the integrated Landscape plan (**Indicators:** Extension workers and key local government leaders (disaggregated by sex) producing standard plans and reports on natural resources management in the Mt. Elgon landscape. Outcome 2.1: Increase in adoption of sustainable coffee and staple crops production practices in the Mt. Elgon landscape (**Indicators:** Beneficiaries disaggregated by gender accessing incentives for sustainable production and marketing of crops in the Mt Elgon landscape; Farmers, extension workers and other actors disaggregated by gender, applying sustainable coffee standards along coffee value chain in the Mt Elgon landscape. Outcome 2.2: Increased share of coffee and staple crops production from Mt. Elgon region being marketed through responsible value chains (**Indicator:** Smallholder farmers (women and men) participating in the coffee and food crop value chains in the Mt Elgon landscape; Participants disaggregated by gender trained in best practices or cross-cutting issues for sustainable coffee production)

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

Private Sector Engagement.

Within the Mt. Elgon landscape, several private sector institutions (e.g. Bugisu Cooperative Union, Sebei Elgon Cooperative Union, Kalaa Mugosi Women Empowerment Ltd, Mt. Elgon Agroforestry Communities Coop Enterprise Ltd and Bushika Integrated Area Cooperative Enterprise Ltd) are important in implementing socio-economic interventions for local livelihoods and will be important stakeholders in the project. These private sector players have been involved at the outset of project design and will be supporting partners during project implementation (see Table below, and Appendix 15 ? Stakeholder Engagement Plan). Additionally, given their experience in the region, the private sector will support capacity building of smallholder farmers in coffee and food crops production. The private sector will also be critical in supporting increased funding for sustainable coffee production through the establishment of credit financing mechanisms; ii) Improved biodiversity conservation by planting hundreds of thousands of indigenous agroforestry trees on farms to provide shade to coffee trees, hence decreased GHG emissions.

Private Sector Engagement Plan

Organization	Mandate	Role in the project	Method of Engagement
Bushika Integrated Area Cooperative Enterprise Limited (BIACE)	Development and enhancement of community livelihoods through integrated coffee, banana and dairy enterprises	Capacity building; Extension services; Demonstration sites; Production and marketing; Farmer mobilization and sensitization; Value addition; Provision of agro-inputs	MoUs with clearly defined roles, responsibilities and benefits; Joint regular planning and review meetings;
Mt Elgon Agroforestry Communities Cooperative Enterprise Limited (MEACCE Ltd)	Agroforestry and community mobilization for coffee and landscape management	Agroforestry, training in best agronomic practices, Extension services, Value addition, Coffee quality improvement, Marketing, Certification	MoUs with clearly defined roles, responsibilities and benefits; Joint regular planning and review meetings;
Sebei-Elgon Cooperative Union	Supporting farmers through capacity building and access to inputs; Extension services; Credit and savings schemes; Quality assurance; Market information dissemination	Agroforestry, Training farmers in coffee production and management, Provision of extension services, Value addition, Marketing of coffee products, Certification	MoUs with clearly defined roles, responsibilities and benefits; Joint regular planning and review meetings; Representation on the Steering Committee of the project;
Bugisu Cooperative Union	Supporting farmers in processing, marketing, and value addition of coffee; Farmer mobilization, organization and coordination; Incentive schemes ? bonuses, bursaries; Provision of agro ? inputs; Media coverage	Provision of extension services to farmers, Value addition, Improved land farming methods, Farm management and Certification	MoUs with clearly defined roles and responsibilities; Joint regular planning and review meetings; Representation on the Steering Committee of the project;
Kalaamugosi Women Empowerment Ltd	Coffee quality assurance; Business advisory services; Resource mobilization; Provision of credit facilities; Training of women; Value addition and buying of coffee; Psycho-social support; Certification process	Capacity building, Coffee value addition, Marketing, Bulking, Farm inputs, Coffee quality analysis, Provision of coffee drying and storage facilities, Provision of farm credit	MoUs with clearly defined roles and responsibilities; Joint regular planning and review meetings;

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

5. Risks

The project strategy, described in detail within the project document, identifies the following key risks. These risks and the mitigation measures will be continuously monitored and updated throughout the project.

Identified Risks	Risk Assessment	Description of Risks	Mitigation Measures
Difficulties in mobilizing local communities to fully participate in ILM activities	Low	Lack of awareness on the potential benefits of ILM approaches by local communities, and a lack of any incentive scheme or market linkages has limited community interest in production of high-value crops (maize, bananas and Irish potatoes to subsistence only.	The project will work with district local government and the local institutions at the lower levels to mobilize local communities. Awareness and knowledge creation as well as sharing of best practices will be undertaken during the implementation of the project
Potential delay in approval of land use plans, strategies, institutional and regulatory frameworks	Low	Potential delay in the approval of land use plans, strategies, institutional and regulatory frameworks would delay the effective implementation of ILM	The project will mainly utilise landscape level institutions and local government instruments that do not require long processes of approval. Moreover, government is fully committed to the sustainable conservation of ecosystems in Uganda
Lack of consensus of roles and responsibilities among stakeholders	Medium	Lack of consensus of the roles and responsibilities among stakeholders would delay implementation of the project, especially at district and local levels	The project management and national coordinating institution (NEMA) will ensure that the roles and responsibilities are clarified at the outset of the project during the inception phase. This will also continuously be reviewed and if need be, addressed during the monitoring missions and the annual meetings.

Identified Risks	Risk Assessment	Description of Risks	Mitigation Measures
Competing priorities and emergencies	Low	Competing priorities and emergencies arise and delay the implementation of the project	There has been adequate consultation at government level for this project to ensure that it is one of the priorities. Since government deals with various priorities, commitment has been obtained from various partners on the project and this is not expected to arise. In the case of emergencies, it is not likely that this will affect the project, since government has a dedicated structure and ministry for emergencies, with its own line of action and operation during emergencies, which are not likely to affect the project, but would work with the project team, in case such emergencies were to occur in the project area.
Participants may not utilize the knowledge and skills acquired	Low	The staff and other stakeholders may not utilize the knowledge and skills gained from the project, either due to transfers, retirement and wilful neglect	The staff that will be equipped with knowledge and skills by the project are likely to be those that ordinarily handle this function within their organizations. Care will be taken to include, as much as possible, young and upcoming staff so that continuity may be assured in the case of retirements or job transfers.
Traditional and cultural considerations	Low	Traditional and cultural considerations may delay the implementation of the project at community level if they are not in sync with community values. Some traditional and cultural norms may condone or promote gender inequality.	The project will work with communities that have already been mobilized and have been participants in many land use management engagements. Nevertheless, the project inception phase will involve a lot of learning and unlearning of community values and norms so that the project works to promote gender equality and benefit the local communities. In any case, the local implementers of the project among the communities will be members of the same communities.
Protracted process of development and approval of the partnerships	Low	The process of development and approval of the partnerships may take very long and delay implementation of the project	The project will work with communities that are in precarious need of ILM interventions. It is therefore expected that the modalities will not be difficult to work out and therefore there is likely to be no real delay. The whole process will be concluded during the inception phase of the project.

Identified Risks	Risk Assessment	Description of Risks	Mitigation Measures
Impacts on social inclusion, gender equality and women's rights whereby the project reinforces existing gender imbalances and does not include women in the targeted areas	Low	There is unequal gender and social exclusion in access to production resources, limited decision-making power and mobility, particularly in rural areas	Gender considerations will be mainstreamed in all project activities. The project will conduct a gender gap analysis and develop a detailed gender action plan that will be to implement gender equality and social inclusion during project implementation.
Health risk for staff, partners and communities in the pilot sites, including disruption and/or suspension of activities; and spread of COVID-19 among targeted communities	Moderate	<p>Short term: There is risk of increased COVID transmission due to return of persons from urban centres to the communities, pressure on land (fragmentation and unsustainable practices), deforestation and human-wildlife poaching.</p> <p>Long term: There is a risk of possible climate change due to deforestation and unsustainable land management, new diseases,</p>	<p>In the short term, during project implementation, the mitigation measures will include protection of staff, partners and people in need by using protective equipment and physical distancing. Revision and implementation of adjusted Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Take preventive actions to minimize the risk of the spread and impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>For long term mitigation, the COVID 19 pandemic provides an opportunity for the local communities, CSOs, NGOs, and government agencies to come together for effective planning to mitigate the impacts associated with the pandemic. The project will take care of this during the development of the local and district landuse plans, district development plans, integrated landscape management plans, and sectoral plans.</p>
Climate change is affecting rainfall patterns and exacerbating land slides and flooding conditions, exacting additional stress on the already vulnerable ecosystems	Moderate	There are increasing incidences of drought, landslides, soil erosion and flooding in the project area	In the short term , the project activities will include consideration of adaptation and resilience measures, as well as a study to evaluate the vulnerability of communities investing in value chains. The project will therefore adapt and resilience measures including climate-smart agricultural practices, water management, agroforestry and wetlands. The long term measures will include management and institutional and regulatory reforms, development of knowledge systems and integrated land use planning.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination.

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) is the Executing Agency on behalf of Government and will provide overall coordination and supervision. NEMA will implement the project in collaboration with project partners. The Government ministries and agencies responsible for UNCCD (Ministry of Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries), UNFCCC (Ministry of Water and Environment); and CBD (NEMA) will be responsible for the delivery of project outcomes and the associated outputs that fall under these Conventions and are also within their mandate.

To expedite delivery of outputs, the lead government ministries and agencies responsible for UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD, will work with project partners in the implementation of project activities through signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU will clearly spell out the activities agreed upon and responsibilities of each party in the execution of the MoU. The mandate, expertise and competencies of the partners are some of the criteria that will be used in identifying activities to be implemented by project partners. This will be done at the launch/inception workshop for the project.

To minimize delays to delivery of project outputs by district local governments, NEMA in consultation with DLGs, will identify opportunities on how best to support the pilot districts to effectively participate in the implementation of project activities.

Components/Outcomes	Responsibility Assignment	
	Lead institution(s)	Project partners
Component 1: Integrated Mt. Elgon Landscape Management System and institutional frameworks and improved governance	NEMA, MAAIF, MWE	NFA, UWA, MGLSD, DLGs, IUCN
Outcome 1.1: <i>Integrated landscape approaches adopted at Landscape and National Level</i>	NEMA, MAAIF, MWE	NFA, UWA, MGLSD, DLGs, IUCN
Outcome 1.2: <i>Strengthened institutional and governance systems for implementation of the integrated Landscape plan</i>	NEMA, MAAIF	MWE, NFA, UWA, DLGs
Component 2: Sustainable coffee and staple crops production practices & responsible value chains	MAAIF	MGLSD, UCDA, KMWE, MEACCE, BIACE, BCU, SECU, DLGs
Outcome 2.1: <i>Increase in adoption of Sustainable production practices for coffee and staple crops production practices in the Mt. Elgon landscape</i>	MAAIF	UCDA, KMWE, MEACCE, BIACE, BCU, SCU, DLGs
Outcome 2.2: <i>Increased share of coffee and staple crops production from Mt. Elgon region being marketed through responsible value chains.</i>	MAAIF	MGLSD, UCDA, KMWE, MEACCE, BIACE, BCU, SCU, DLGs
Component 3: Natural habitat restoration	NEMA	MWE, NFA, IUCN, DLGs
Outcome 3.1: <i>Improved condition of habitats ensuring biodiversity conservation, preservation of ecosystem services and maintenance of carbon stocks</i>	NEMA	MWE, NFA, UWA, IUCN, DLGs, ICRAF

Component 4: Knowledge management (sharing, learning and scaling up)	NEMA, MAAIF	MWE, IUCN
Outcome 4.1: <i>Sector agencies and relevant institutions applying ILM approaches in their planning and policies.</i>	NEMA, MAAIF	MWE, IUCN

6.1. Project Internal Structure

The project internal structure will include a Project Management Unit (PMU) which will be established in NEMA and will comprise of the National Project Coordinator, Project Manager, Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Project Finance and Administrative Assistant, three (3) field-based officers (Natural Resources Management specialist, Agricultural specialist and Communications specialist) and three (3) drivers (for the 3 field based offices, and PMU office)[1]¹. Being a multi-focal project that covers the areas of biodiversity conservation, agricultural production and climate change, it will be important to recruit experts in these fields including communication. In that regard, the project will require the services of a Natural Resource Management Specialist, Agricultural Specialist and a Communications Specialist. The Natural Resource Management and Agricultural specialists will be charged with delivery of project outputs and outcomes on ecosystem restoration, climate change mitigation and adaptation, integrated natural resource planning, Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), Sustainable Land Management (SLM), onfarm diversification and development and operationalization of coffee and staple crops value chains. While the Communication Specialist will be responsible for communicating project results and lessons learned to stakeholders in a simple language that is understandable to even non-scientists. There will be a deliberate effort to recruit both men and women to the project management unit. The PMU will be responsible for the daily management of project and for ensuring efficient, gender-responsive and timely implementation of the project annual work plans. The PMU will be hosted and supported technically by NEMA who will allocate part-time experts according to the PMU needs as part of government co-financing. Memoranda of Understanding will also be developed with relevant partners if required for the coordination of some specific interventions of the project. The PMU will work in close collaboration with UNEP. The ToRs of the PMU staff will be to:

- Technically identify, plan, design and support all activities;
- Liaise with government agencies and regularly advocate on behalf of the project;
- Prepare the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B) and monitoring plan, and submit them to GEF and NPSC for validation;
- Play the role of the Secretariat of the NPSC;
- Organise regular meetings and workshops with the NPSC;
- Be responsible for day-to-day implementation of the project in line with the AWP;
- Ensure a results-based approach to project implementation, including maintaining a focus on project results and impacts as defined by the results framework indicators in Annex A;
- Ensure close collaboration with baseline and partner project to maximise synergy and complementarity;
- Ensure the submission of appropriate yearly expenditure reports on the budget identified as co-financing by the baseline projects;
- Prepare and submit bi-annual progress reports and contribute to the preparation of UNEP progress reports;
- Monitor and evaluate continuously the project progress regarding the Results Matrix Targets according to a specific plan validated by NEMA and UNEP, and submit M&E reports regularly to UNEP and NPSC;
- Be responsible for the elaboration of UNEP Project Progress Reports (PPR) and the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR); and
- Facilitate and support the mid-term evaluation/review and final evaluation of the project. PMU staff will be supported by national and international consultants who will be recruited during project implementation as needed.

6.2. Project External Structure

There will be Annual Stakeholders' Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Missions of the Project to assess progress towards achievement of the project targets and effectiveness of implementation in terms of achieving project objectives, outcomes and outputs and to discuss and agree on mechanisms to improve project performance. Findings and recommendations of this review will be instrumental in bringing improvement in the overall project design and execution strategy for the remaining period of the project's term if necessary.

6.3. Project Oversight Mechanisms

a) Project Steering Committee

A Project Steering Committee will be formally constituted by the Executive Director, NEMA from high level officials of the rank of Commissioner and above, from the following institutions/organizations; Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, Uganda Coffee Development Authority, Uganda Wildlife Authority, National Forest Authority, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Kalaa Mugosi Women Empowerment Ltd. The specific responsibilities of the Project Steering Committee are to:

- 1) Provide strategic guidance and reinforce NEMA's leadership of the project and coordinating interventions;
- 2) Provide guidance on possible counter measures/management actions to address specific project related risks;
- 3) Approve the annual work plans prepared by the Project Manager and Contracted Parties;
- 4) Provide strategic and technical advice to create synergy and uniformity between supported activities, policies and aligned projects;
- 5) Promote cross-sectoral, inter-departmental and trans-boundary coordination of project activities to ensure synergies are strengthened
- 6) Assess project progress and report on project to Senior Management of NEMA and other higher authorities of GoU related to project implementation;
- 7) Publicize the project within their respective Institutions and Ministries.

b) Technical Working Group (TWG)

The project will establish a Technical Working Group (TWG). The TWG will be a permanent structure within the project structure, comprised of the technical teams from the Project Implementing Institution. The TWG will oversee and discuss the detailed technical aspects related to the implementation of the project activities to inform the PSC's technical guidance, oversight and decision making directions. The specific responsibilities of the TWG will be to:

- Support the PMU in the development of work plans and budgets;
- Support the PMU in the development of Terms of Reference for activities to be undertaken by consultants;
- Collate salient and credible data/information to support the PMU and consultants in the delivery of legitimate reports;
- Assess and advise on implementation of the planned project activities against set timeframes to deliver the following key outcomes of the project:
 - Integrated landscape management, institutional frameworks and improved governance (Component 1 of the project);
 - Sustainable coffee and staple crops production practices and responsible value chains in the Mt. Elgon landscape (Component 2 of the project);
 - Natural habitat restoration in the Mt. Elgon landscape (Component 3 of the project);
 - Knowledge management of best practices and lessons learned from project implementation (sharing, learning and scaling-up) (Component 3 of the project);
- Review and provide input on draft project reports to ensure adequacy in the attainment of the project objectives and deliverables;
- Support the PMU on quality assurance of documents/reports to be presented to the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for consideration; and

- Perform any other duties that may be assigned by PSC or UNEP.

c) Monitoring and Evaluation

UNEP will arrange for the project's mid-term and final evaluation in consultation with Project Management Unit (PMU). The Project mid-term and final M&E will, inter alia: a) Review the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; b) Analyze effectiveness of partnership arrangements; c) Identify issues requiring decisions and remedial actions; d) Propose any mid-course corrections and/or adjustments to the implementation strategy as necessary; and e) Describe the technical achievements and lessons learned derived from project design, implementation and management. The Terminal Evaluation (TE) will be carried out after the operational completion of the project. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. The TE will also have the purpose of indicating future actions needed to expand on the existing Project in subsequent phases, mainstream and up-scale its products and practices. Critical elements that both the TE will pay special attention to are the outcome indicators.

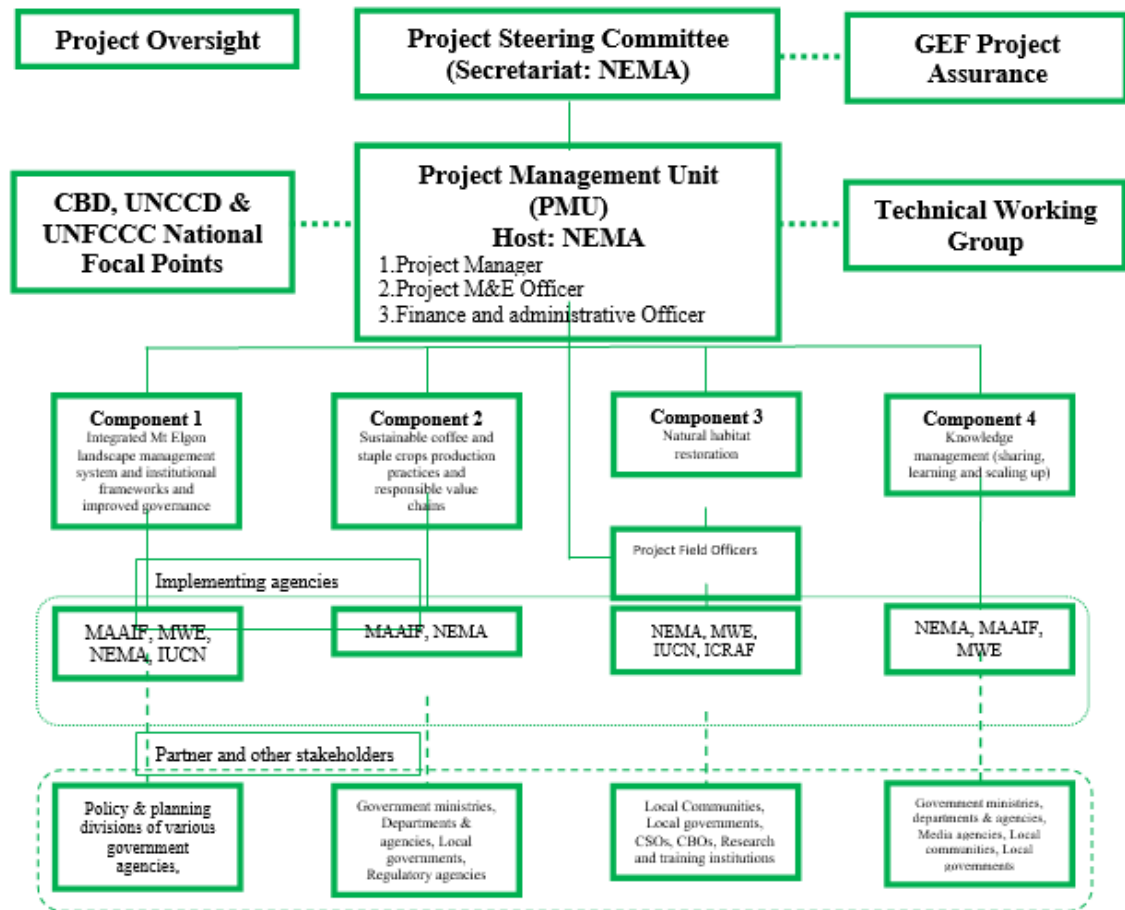
In terms of monitoring and evaluation, the reporting requirements and responsibilities have been proposed as follows:

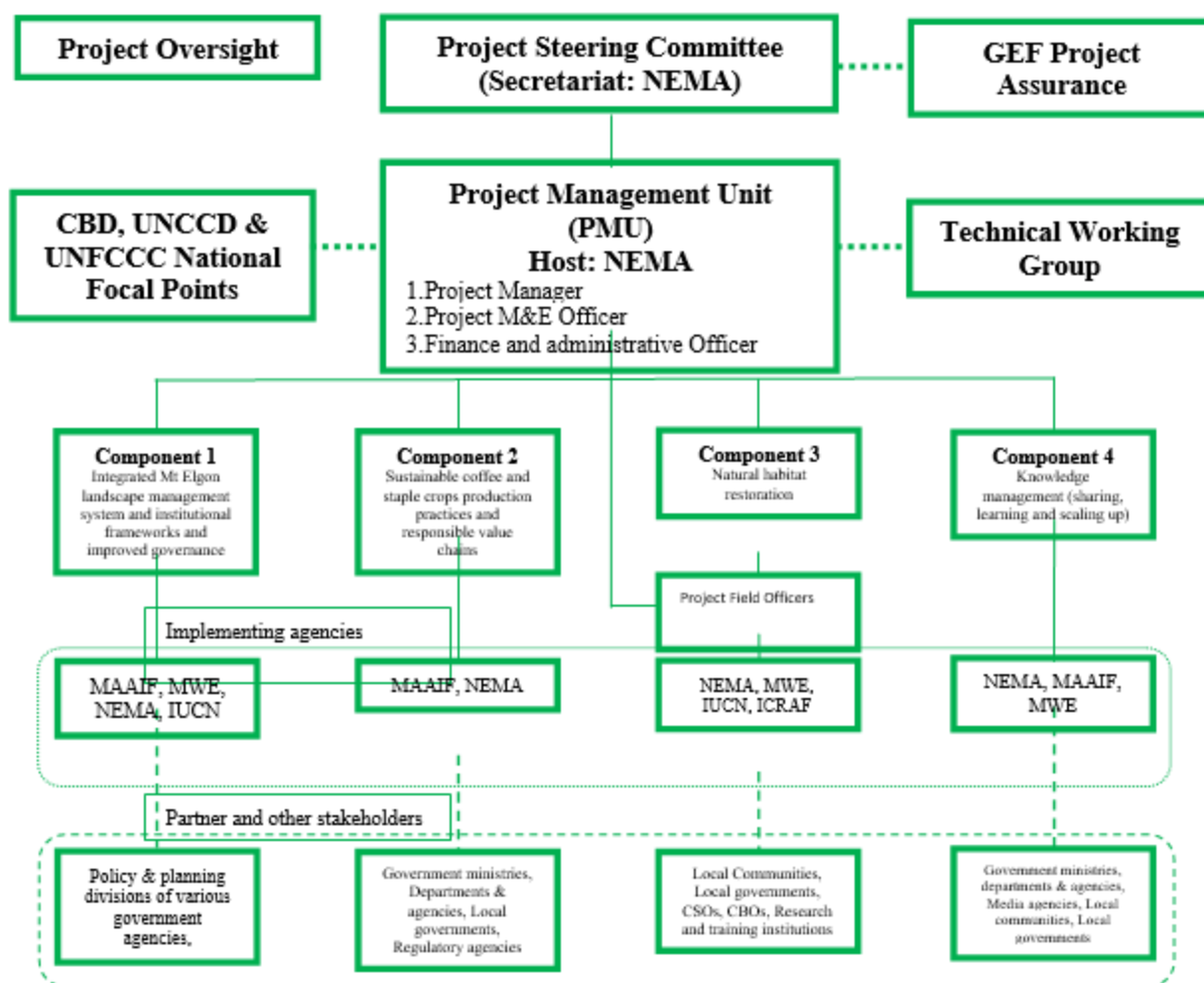
M&E Component/Activity	Responsibility Assignment		Means of Assessment/Monitoring Data Source
	Institution	Project/Agency Officer	
Project Inception	NEMA (PMU) in consultation with UNEP,	Project Manager, Consultant	Inception report with detailed methodology
Steering Committee Meetings	NEMA (PMU)	Project Manager, UNEP Task Manager	Minutes of the meetings
Semi-annual M&E review meetings	NEMA (PMU)	Project Manager, UNEP Task Manager	Minutes of the meetings
Monitoring visits to field sites	NEMA (PMU) in collaboration with the participating institutions	Project Manager, UNEP Task Manager	On site data collection Monitoring reports
Annual Review and Planning Meeting (ARPM)/Project Implementation Review (PIR)	UNEP in consultation with the PMU, and participating institutions/agencies and stakeholders	Project Manager, UNEP Task Manager	On site data collection PIR reports
Mid-Term external evaluation (MTR)	UNEP in consultation with the PMU, and participating institutions/agencies and stakeholders	Independent Consultant	On site data collection Consultant report
End of Project Terminal Evaluation	UNEP in consultation with the PMU, and participating institutions/agencies and stakeholders	Independent Consultant	On site data collection Consultant report

[1]To ensure the success of the project, it is critical that four all-terrain vehicles are dedicated to the project, based on the following factors: The terrain and landscape of the Mt. Elgon region has been a critical factor in ease of transport for all projects that have been implemented in the area. In most cases, many projects have failed to achieve all their objectives by the close of project time due to inadequacies in transport. This project aims to achieve all the project outputs on time by ensuring that all project areas are reached on time. The project has been structured so that there are concurrent activities in Land use and management, biodiversity conservation and management, and climate change and vulnerability management. This requires dedicated vehicles to assist the project teams in these three project focus areas to implement the project without any transport impediment. These three vehicles will solely be dedicated to field work. In addition, the PMU requires a vehicle for coordination and management work. This need for readily available and flexible transportation during project implementation was duly discussed with the project partners during co-financing discussions. All the partners noted the need for this but were only able to provide co-financing in the areas they indicated due to funds commitments which had already been made. The request is therefore for GEF to facilitate this critical component, given the challenges in the mountainous Elgon region and ensure that this project does not go the way of previous projects due to transportation bottlenecks.

d) *Organogram*

The management structure, as shown below, will respond to the project's needs in terms of direction, management, control, and communication. As the project is cross-functional and involves various stakeholders, its structure will be flexible in order to adjust to ongoing changes in the context. Staff and consultants will be contracted according to the established rules and regulations of Uganda and all financial transactions and agreements will similarly follow the same rules and regulations.





7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

7. Consistency with National Priorities.

The proposed project is fully in line with Uganda's United Nations Development Assistance Framework UNDAF Strategic Intent # 3: Sustainable and inclusive economic development such that by end of 2035, Uganda has achieved sustainable and inclusive economic development that is, inter alia, environmentally responsive and provides equal opportunities to women, men and vulnerable groups underpinned by: (a) diversified production that is responsive to local, national and international demand; (b) competitive, favorable and regionally integrated; and (c) modern, green, adaptable, production-oriented, equitable and accessible. The project fits within UNDAF Outcome 3.1. (Natural Resource Management and Climate Change Resilience) which provides for natural resources management which is gender responsive,

effective and efficient, reducing emissions, negating the impact of climate-induced disasters and environmental degradation on livelihoods and production systems, and strengthening community resilience.

The proposed project is fully in line with the country's national strategies and plans. The Government of Uganda has prioritized capacity building for effective implementation of the national development strategy for taking Uganda to a middle-income country. Uganda's National Vision 2040 and its National Development Plan (NDP III), as well as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP II), all recognize the need to strengthen agriculture, land/soil management, value addition of environmental and natural resources, including biodiversity, as a priority.

Uganda is in the middle of implementation of its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025, which is aligned to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and national targets developed within the framework of the Aichi targets. This project is consistent with Uganda's commitment to achieve the following Aichi targets: Target 5 (reduction of loss, including degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats), Target 7 (sustainable management of areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry), Target 11 (conservation of terrestrial areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystems services), Target 14 (restoration of ecosystems that provide essential services including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods, and wellbeing; taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable, and Target 15 (enhancing, through conservation and restoration, ecosystem resilience and contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks from degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change and adaptation and combating desertification).

In terms of climate change and desertification, the project is consistent with Uganda's commitments to achieving the following targets under the UNFCCC: Target 13.1 (Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related disasters), Target 13.2 (Integrate climate change measures into policies and planning), Target 13.3 (Build knowledge and capacity to meet climate change), Target 13A (Implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change), and Target 13.B (Promote mechanisms to raise capacity for planning and management). The project will also build towards achieving the NDC target of 22% emission cuts by 2030 in the energy, forestry and wetland sectors. The project is further consistent with Uganda's commitment for achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030. In terms of women empowerment, the project is consistent with the Uganda Gender Policy (2007) through implementation of strategies and actions that enhance the participation of women in integrated landscape management. The project is also consistent with the Uganda National Coffee Policy (2013) which emphasizes the importance of existing and emerging issues such as gender equality, climate change as well as certification in the coffee industry.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

8. Knowledge Management.

This project has identified knowledge management as an important element of the strategy to transition the Mt. Elgon region to a sustainable, integrated landscape with efficient coffee and staple crops value and supply chain. To this effect, access to knowledge, learning, and networking for purposes of catalyzing coordinated implementation of climate risk reduction, land degradation neutrality and biodiversity loss reduction will be developed in Component 4 and operationalized to create platforms for information sharing and knowledge management. This will be achieved by; (i) developing and operationalizing an interactive M&E system to track implementation of ILM in Mt. Elgon landscape for purposes of scaling out in similar areas in Uganda, (ii) documenting and sharing best practices and lessons learned at landscape, national and regional levels to inform uptake of ILM practices and policy, (iii) facilitating

experience sharing and learning exchange visits with Bungoma and Trans-Zoia Counties Western Kenya on the 'Integrated Landscape Management for Conservation and Restoration of the Mt. Elgon Ecosystem in Western Kenya' project, and (iv) establishing and enhancing the functionality of national and regional multi-stakeholder platforms (AFR 100) to champion ILM practices. Knowledge management under which improved knowledge on Integrated Landscape Management approaches at landscape, national and regional levels is expected to be realized through documenting, sharing and scaling up best practices and lessons. Targeted communication and outreach to similar areas of Uganda, regionally and globally will be conducted with the explicit purpose of enabling scaling up and out for greater global environmental and livelihood benefits. Stakeholder public awareness, outreach and participation will include the participation of technical staff in workshops, training, and tools development; the facilitation of local project events and processes; the provision of data sources and technical expertise relevant for integrated landscape management; and the institutionalization of project results and lessons learned to allow for upscaling, replication and sustainability.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

9. Monitoring and Evaluation.

The project will follow UNEP as well as FOLUR Global Program standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the executing agency and UNEP. The project M&E plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented in Annex A includes SMART indicators[1] for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators are designed according to the GEF indicator guidelines as well as the FOLUR M&E Guidance Note for country project teams[2]². The M&E plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project inception workshop to ensure project stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis project monitoring and evaluation. Indicators and their means of verification may also be fine-tuned at the inception workshop. Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of the project management team but other project partners will have responsibilities to collect specific information to track the indicators. It is the responsibility of the Project Manager to inform UNEP of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.

The project Steering Committee will receive periodic reports on progress and will make recommendations to UNEP concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan. Project oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility of the Task Manager in UNEP-GEF. The Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of scientific and technical outputs and publications. Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project which will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop. The emphasis of the Task Manager supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Progress vis-à-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the Steering Committee at agreed intervals. The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.

Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the Project Implementation Review (PIR). Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by project partners and UNEP. Perhaps the most infamous risk is that posed by COVID-19. Uganda is swiftly adapting to this new environment and remains very dedicated to support implementation of this GEF project despite the challenges faced from this pandemic. The project will take the following actions to mitigate negative results arising from COVID-19 or any other health related risk: a) Identify critical stakeholders the absence of whom can lead to unplanned delays, b) Consider legal and financial implications of COVID-19 and develop a mitigation plan at the inception stage, c) Communicate any disruptions due to COVID-19 to all stakeholders, including staff and UNEP, d) Conduct scenario analysis and consider alternative delivery methods, such as virtual or online meetings, radio programmes, recorded messages and guidelines, personal protective equipment or any other steps that will allow the project to be completed on time and on budget, even if it is delayed at some stages by COVID-19.

A mid-term management review or evaluation will take place after 2 years of project implementation as indicated in the project milestones. The review will include all parameters recommended by the GEF Evaluation Office for terminal evaluations and will verify information gathered through the GEF core indicator worksheet, as relevant. The review will be carried out using a participatory approach whereby parties that may benefit or be affected by the project will be consulted. Such parties were identified during the stakeholder analysis (see section 2 of the project document). The project Steering Committee will participate in the mid-term review and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented.

In-line with the GEF Evaluation requirements and the UNEP Evaluation Policy and the GEF's Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, the project will be subject to an independent Terminal Evaluation (TE). The Evaluation Office of UNEP (EOU) will be responsible for TE and will liaise with the Task Manager and Executing Agency(ies) throughout the process.

The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP staff and implementing partners. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE will typically be initiated after the project's operational completion. If a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, the timing of the evaluation will be discussed with the Evaluation Office to feed into the submission of the follow-on proposal.

The draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalised. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process. The evaluation recommendations will be entered into a Recommendations Implementation Plan template by the Evaluation Office. Formal submission of the completed Recommendations Implementation Plan by the project manager is required within one month of its delivery to the project team. The Evaluation Office will monitor compliance with this plan every six months for a total period of 12 months from the finalization of the Recommendations Implementation Plan. The GEF core indicator worksheet is attached as Annex F. This will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. As mentioned above the mid-term and terminal evaluation will verify the information of the core indicator worksheet.

[1] The detail definitions of each indicator and sub-indicators can be referred in the GEF 7 Core Indicators Guidelines https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Results_Guidelines.pdf

[2] Guidance Note: Monitoring and Evaluation for FOLUR Country Project teams Apr. 10, 2020

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

Mount Elgon sits adjacent to a heavily populated agricultural landscape supporting some two million people, and has been degraded by excessive use. Yet the livelihoods and economic activities of these people depend on the goods and services that this ecosystem provides. The project will benefit around half a million people living on the slopes of Mt Elgon, and improve livelihoods for around 5,000 of the poorest and most resource-stressed households. The current poverty level in the target districts is estimated at 30-40%, with over 50% of households with family incomes of less than US\$ 1 per day.[1] The total population of the 9 districts in 2010 was about 1.44 million, of whom around 0.5 million live on or adjacent to the lower slopes of Mt Elgon and of whom 85% are rural farmers. Population densities in 2010 were as high as 1,000 persons/km², up from a maximum of 660 persons/km² in 2002[2], and population growth rate is 3.4%. The project will also be extremely gender beneficial.

[1] MERECP, 2005, Baseline survey of the socio-economics of the people living in the Mt Elgon ecosystem.

[2] The national average is 175 persons/km²

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification *

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low			
Measures to address identified risks and impacts			

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

The project strategy, described in detail within the project document, identifies the following key risks. These risks and the mitigation measures will be continuously monitored and updated throughout the project.

Identified Risks	Risk Assessment	Description of Risks	Mitigation Measures
Difficulties in mobilizing local communities to fully participate in ILM activities	Low	Lack of awareness on the potential benefits of ILM approaches by local communities, and a lack of any incentive scheme or market linkages has limited community interest in production of high-value crops (maize, bananas and Irish potatoes to subsistence only.	The project will work with district local government and the local institutions at the lower levels to mobilize local communities. Awareness and knowledge creation as well as sharing of best practices will be undertaken during the implementation of the project
Potential delay in approval of land use plans, strategies, institutional and regulatory frameworks	Low	Potential delay in the approval of land use plans, strategies, institutional and regulatory frameworks would delay the effective implementation of ILM	The project will mainly utilise landscape level institutions and local government instruments that do not require long processes of approval. Moreover, government is fully committed to the sustainable conservation of ecosystems in Uganda
Lack of consensus of roles and responsibilities among stakeholders	Medium	Lack of consensus of the roles and responsibilities among stakeholders would delay implementation of the project, especially at district and local levels	The project management and national coordinating institution (NEMA) will ensure that the roles and responsibilities are clarified at the outset of the project during the inception phase. This will also continuously be reviewed and if need be, addressed during the monitoring missions and the annual meetings.

Identified Risks	Risk Assessment	Description of Risks	Mitigation Measures
Competing priorities and emergencies	Low	Competing priorities and emergencies arise and delay the implementation of the project	There has been adequate consultation at government level for this project to ensure that it is one of the priorities. Since government deals with various priorities, commitment has been obtained from various partners on the project and this is not expected to arise. In the case of emergencies, it is not likely that this will affect the project, since government has a dedicated structure and ministry for emergencies, with its own line of action and operation during emergencies, which are not likely to affect the project, but would work with the project team, in case such emergencies were to occur in the project area.
Participants may not utilize the knowledge and skills acquired	Low	The staff and other stakeholders may not utilize the knowledge and skills gained from the project, either due to transfers, retirement and wilful neglect	The staff that will be equipped with knowledge and skills by the project are likely to be those that ordinarily handle this function within their organizations. Care will be taken to include, as much as possible, young and upcoming staff so that continuity may be assured in the case of retirements or job transfers.
Traditional and cultural considerations	Medium	Traditional and cultural considerations may delay the implementation of the project at community level if they are not in sync with community values. Some traditional and cultural norms may condone or promote gender inequality.	The project will work with communities that have already been mobilized and have been participants in many land use management engagements. Nevertheless, the project inception phase will involve a lot of learning and unlearning of community values and norms so that the project works to promote gender equality and benefit the local communities. In any case, the local implementers of the project among the communities will be members of the same communities.
Protracted process of development and approval of the partnerships	Low	The process of development and approval of the partnerships may take very long and delay implementation of the project	The project will work with communities that are in precarious need of ILM interventions. It is therefore expected that the modalities will not be difficult to work out and therefore there is likely to be no real delay. The whole process will be concluded during the inception phase of the project.

Identified Risks	Risk Assessment	Description of Risks	Mitigation Measures
Impacts on social inclusion, gender equality and women's rights whereby the project reinforces existing gender imbalances and does not include women in the targeted areas	High	There is unequal gender and social exclusion in access to production resources, limited decision-making power and mobility, particularly in rural areas	Gender considerations will be mainstreamed in all project activities. The project will conduct a gender gap analysis and develop a detailed gender action plan that will be to implement gender equality and social inclusion during project implementation.
Health risk for staff, partners and communities in the pilot sites, including disruption and/or suspension of activities; and spread of COVID-19 among targeted communities	Moderate	The COVID-19 pandemic has affected various sectors of the economy, including the environment, and government has put in place preventive actions	Protection of staff, partners and people in need by using protective equipment and physical distancing. Revision and implementation of adjusted Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Take preventive actions to minimize the risk of the spread and impact of COVID-19
Climate change is affecting rainfall patterns and exacerbating land slides and flooding conditions, exacting additional stress on the already vulnerable ecosystems	Moderate	There are increasing incidences of drought, landslides, soil erosion and flooding in the project area	Project activities will include consideration of adaptation and resilience measures, as well as a study to evaluate the vulnerability of communities investing in value chains. The project will therefore adapt and resilience measures including climate-smart agricultural practices, water management, agroforestry, wetlands management and institutional and regulatory reforms, impact investment, development of knowledge systems and integrated land use planning.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Appendix 10 - Safeguard Risk Identification Form	CEO Endorsement ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Annex A: Results Framework

Project Objective	Objective level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference *
			Mid-Term	End of Project			
To transition the Mt. Elgon region to a sustainable, biodiverse, climate-resilient, integrated landscape with efficient coffee and staple crops (maize, banana and Irish potato) value and supply chain.	Existence of effective Integrated Landscape Management approaches at landscape and national levels for enhanced productivity and biodiversity conservation	Inadequate integrated landscape management approaches leading to unsustainable agriculture practices and inadequate value and supply chains	Operational gaps in the existing landscape management approaches established and measures to address them identified	Integrated Landscape Management approaches (Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies/Plans incl. Land Degradation Neutrality, Sectoral Development Strategies/Action Plans) in place and under implementation	End of project report, PIR reports, progress reports, monitoring reports, minutes of meetings, key informant interviews, questionnaire administration, KAP surveys	Assumptions: - Government is fully committed to the conservation and sustainable use of the Mt Elgon landscape resources	Ecosystem Management SP3: EAa (i,iii) and EAb (i,ii) 2018-2019 PoW and the 2018-2021 MTS Subprogramme 3: Healthy and productive ecosystems
	Existence of strong institutional and governance systems for implementation of integrated Landscape plans	Inadequate institutional and governance systems leading to unsustainable agriculture practices and inadequate value and supply chains	Operational gaps in the existing landscape level institutional and governance systems established and measures to address them identified	Strong landscape level Institutional and Governance Frameworks (Landscape level Multi-Stakeholder Platforms) in place and operational		Risks: - Potential delay in the approval of ILM strategies and plans would delay their operationalization - Lack of consensus of roles and responsibilities for	

	Existence of climate smart and sustainable coffee and staple crops production systems and practices	Unsustainable farming practices leading to low agricultural productivity and negative climate change impacts	Sustainable coffee, maize and other staple crops agricultural production practices promoted and adopted in the Mt. Elgon Landscape	Climate-smart, sustainable and responsive coffee and other staple crops market value chains developed with promotional plans in place and functioning efficiently and effectively.		institutional and governance systems - Health risk for staff, partners and communities in the pilot sites, including disruption and/or suspension of activities; and spread of COVID-19 among targeted communities	
	Existence of sustainable and responsible coffee and other staple food crop value chains and market linkages	Irresponsible coffee and staple crop value chains that is unresponsive to resource-poor farmers coupled with inadequate market linkages	Existing coffee value chain reviewed, strategies for its improvement identified and measures to make it responsive in place and under implementation	Coffee and Staple food crop value chains that is responsive to resource-poor farmers and market linkages established with attendant promotional plans in place and operational			
	Existence of restored natural habitats that are conserving biodiversity and providing ecosystem goods and services	Degraded forests and lands leading to land degradation, biodiversity loss and worsening of climate change impacts	Site Specific Action Plans for restoration of degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes developed and under implementation	Degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes restored (through appropriate Integrated Land Management/Sustainable Land Management approaches) and actively providing ecosystem goods and services			

	Level of knowledge on Integrated Landscape Management approaches as shown by adoption rates, replication and scaling up and out	Inadequate knowledge on Integrated Land Management approaches at landscape, national and regional levels	Tools for documentation of best practices and lessons learned developed	Best practices and lessons learned documented and shared among relevant sectors and actively being utilised to implement Integrated / Sustainable Land Management at landscape, national and global scale			
Project Outcome	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference *
			Mid-Term	End of Project			
1.1: Integrated landscape approaches adopted at Landscape and National Level	Stakeholders using updated Information on ILM for planning in the Mt. Elgon landscape and national levels	All nine DLGs in the Mt. Elgon landscape are using some form of information on land use and vulnerability to climate change for planning purposes; however, this information is not up-to-date	At least four DLGs in the Mt Elgon Landscape are using updated Information on land use and vulnerability to climate change for land use management planning	All the nine DLGs and national level stakeholders are using updated information on land use and vulnerability to climate change for land use management planning	PIR report, Annual progress reports, monitoring reports, minutes of meetings, informant interviews, questionnaire administration	Assumptions: - Central government ministries, district local government agencies and farmers are willing to cooperate; Information dissemination pathways are readily available for awareness creation	Ecosystem Management SP3: EAa (i,iii) and EAb (i,ii) 2018-2019 PoW and the 2018-2021 MTS Subprogramme 3: Healthy and productive ecosystems

	District local governments and other sectors mainstreaming ILM approaches into their development plans and budgets in the Mt Elgon landscape	Integrated Landscape Management approaches and Biodiversity Conservation are insufficiently mainstreamed into DLG and other sectoral Development Plans and Budgets	At least four district local governments have fully mainstreamed Integrated Landscape Management approaches and biodiversity conservation into their development plans and budgets	All the nine district local governments have fully mainstreamed Integrated Landscape Management approaches and biodiversity conservation into their development plans and budgets		Risks: - Competing priorities and lack of consensus among stakeholders may delay the development of ILM plan, strategies and approaches	
	District local governments and other stakeholders are implementing an Integrated land Management Plan for Mt. Elgon landscape	District local governments and other stakeholders are implementing land management plans that were not developed through participatory processes	At least four district local governments and a few other stakeholders are implementing a sustainable integrated land management plan developed through full stakeholder participation	All the nine district local governments and other stakeholders in the Mt Elgon landscape are implementing a Sustainable Integrated Land Management plan developed through participatory processes and biodiversity conservation mainstreamed into production practices of 510,000 ha of agricultural land under SLM			

1.2: Strengthened institutional and governance systems for implementation of the integrated Landscape plan	Extension workers and key local government leaders (disaggregated by sex) producing standard plans and reports on natural resources management in the Mt. Elgon landscape	Twelve local government leaders (DNROs & EOs) have technical capacity to manage natural resources in the Mt Elgon landscape	? At least 18 local government leaders from the Mt. elgon landscape are able to efficiently and effectively manage natural resources in the landscape ? At least 45 extension workers (disaggregated by sex) from the Mt. Elgon landscape are able to efficiently and effectively manage natural resources in the landscape	? At least 90 local government leaders from the Mt. Elgon landscape are able to efficiently and effectively manage natural resources in the landscape ? At least 90 extension workers (disaggregated by sex) from the Mt. Elgon landscape are able to efficiently and effectively manage natural resources in the landscape	PIR report, Annual progress reports, monitoring reports, minutes of meetings, informant interviews, questionnaire administration	Assumptions: - Central government ministries and agencies are willing to cooperate, district local governments are willing to cooperate, local organizations are willing to cooperate, farmer groups are willing to cooperate, private sector is willing to cooperate	
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	Existing structures/institutions in the Mt Elgon landscape coordinating and working together	There is weak coordination and collective action among existing structures/institutions	Two existing landscape level structures (Mt. Elgon Stakeholder Forum and catchment management committee) promoting inter-institution coordination and collective action	Mt Elgon stakeholder forum and nine existing district/catchment level structures (Catchment Management Committees) promoting inter-institution coordination and collective action		Risks: - Change of staff within the District, Sub-County and local authorities and getting new staff that are new to the Project focus leading to delayed Project implementation and possible reduction/loss of project priorities	
	District local governments in the Mt Elgon landscape having governance, law enforcement and compliance monitoring systems for improved regulatory environment	There is weak governance, law enforcement and compliance monitoring for improved regulatory environment in the nine district local governments	At least four district local governments have governance, law enforcement and compliance monitoring systems	All nine district local governments have governance, law enforcement and compliance monitoring systems			

Outputs

1.2.1: Capacity of extension workers and key local government leaders to manage natural resources within Mt. Elgon landscape strengthened

1.2.2: Existing structures (Mt. Elgon Stakeholder Forum, Catchment Management Committees) strengthened to promote inter-institution coordination and collective action

1.2.3: Governance, enforcement of laws and compliance monitoring at landscape level strengthened to improve the regulatory environment

2.1: Increase in adoption of sustainable coffee and staple crops production practices in the Mt. Elgon landscape	Area of land under highland specific climate smart agriculture practices including on-farm diversification	30,000 ha are currently under highland specific CSA practices including on- farm diversification	At least 100,000 ha under CSA practices (soil management, on- farm diversification, agroforestry, terracing, watershed management, river bank stabilization, incentive system)	510,000 ha under CSA practices (soil management, on- farm diversification, agroforestry, terracing, watershed management, river bank stabilisation, incentive system)	PIR report, Annual progress reports, monitoring reports, minutes of meetings, informant interviews, questionnaire administration	Assumption s: - Local government s are willing to cooperate in mobilising farmers, Farmers are cooperating , Avenues for information dissemination are readily available
	Beneficiaries disaggregated by gender accessing incentives for sustainable production and marketing of crops in the Mt Elgon landscape	The existing incentives for production and marketing of staple crops benefits a limited number of beneficiaries	At least At least 192,020 beneficiaries (95,638 men & 96,382 women) accessing incentives for sustainable production of crops and their marketing	384,039 beneficiaries (191,275 males and 192,764 females) accessing incentives on sustainable production of crops and their marketing		Risks: - District and Sub- county technical staff and Extension Workers lack knowledge on sustainable agriculture and value chains and are not able to teach farmers and

	Farmers, extension workers and other actors disaggregated by gender, applying sustainable coffee standards along coffee value chain in the Mt Elgon landscape	3,033 farmers, extension workers and other actors apply sustainable coffee standards along coffee value chain	At least 192,020 (95,638 men & 96,382 women) farmers, extension workers and other actors are applying sustainable coffee standards along value chain	384,039 farmers (191,275 males and 192,764 females), extension workers and other actors are applying sustainable coffee standards along coffee value chain		ILM methodologies	
Outputs 2.1.1: Highland specific climate smart agriculture & SLM practices, including on-farm diversification promoted 2.1.2: Incentives (revolving funds and credit schemes) for sustainable production of crops and their marketing created 2.1.3: Capacity of farmers, extension workers and other actors to apply sustainable coffee standard along coffee value chain enhanced							
2.2: Increased share of coffee and staple crops production from Mt. Elgon region being marketed through responsible value chains.	Smallholder farmers (women and men) participating in the coffee and food crop value chains in the Mt Elgon landscape	3,033 smallholder farmers (women and men) participating in the coffee and food crop value chain	At least 192,020 (95,638 men & 96,382 women) smallholder farmers participating in the coffee and food crop value chains	384,039 (191,275 males and 192,764 females) smallholder farmers participating in the coffee and food crop value chains	PIR report, Annual progress reports, monitoring reports, minutes of meetings, informant interviews, questionnaire administration	Assumption s: - Local governments are willing to cooperate in mobilising farmers, Farmers are cooperating, Avenues for information dissemination are readily available	

Coffee and food crop value chains having access to lucrative markets in the Mt Elgon landscape	Existing coffee and food crop value chains have limited access to lucrative markets	At least two value chains (coffee and maize) comprising of At least 192,020 farmers (95,638 men & 96,382 women) accessing lucrative markets	At least four value chains (coffee, maize, banana and Irish potato) comprising of 384,039 farmers (191,275 males and 192,764 females) accessing lucrative markets		Risks: - District and Sub-county technical staff and Extension Workers lack knowledge on sustainable agriculture and value chains and are not able to teach farmers and ILM methodologies	
Participants disaggregated by gender trained in best practices or cross-cutting issues for sustainable coffee production	3,033 coffee farmers have adopted protocols for sustainable coffee production	At least 192,020 farmers adopting protocols for sustainable coffee production	384,039 farmers adopting protocols for sustainable coffee production			

Outputs

2.2.1: Capacity of the smallholder farmers (women and men) to participate in the coffee and food crop value chains built

2.2.2: Coffee and food crop value chains developed, strengthened and linked to markets

2.2.3: Protocols for sustainable coffee production to influence policy developed and disseminated

3.1: Improved condition of habitats ensuring biodiversity conservation, preservation of ecosystem services and maintenance of carbon stocks	Area of land restored for biodiversity conservation in the Mt Elgon landscape	Approx. 20,000 ha of local forests and wetlands in the Mt Elgon landscape are degraded	At least 10,000 hectares of degraded forests and wetlands in the Mt Elgon landscape restored and benefitting biodiversity	20,000 hectares of degraded forests and wetlands in the Mt Elgon landscape restored and benefitting biodiversity	PIR report, Annual progress reports, monitoring reports, minutes of meetings, informant interviews, questionnaire administration	Assumption s: - Local governments are willing to cooperate in mobilising farmers, Farmers are cooperating , Avenues for information dissemination are readily available Risks: - External factors such as climate change undermine the viability of land-use options leading to further forest and land degradation	
	Area of land under improved management and providing ecosystem services in the Mt Elgon landscape	Approx. 35,000 ha of farmland, fragile lands, unstable slopes and hilltops in the Mt Elgon landscape are degraded	At least 20,000 hectares of degraded farmland, fragile lands, unstable slopes and hilltops in the Mt Elgon landscape restored and benefitting biodiversity	35,000 hectares of degraded farmland, fragile lands, unstable slopes and hilltops in the Mt Elgon landscape restored and providing ecosystem services			
	Emissions avoided in the Mt Elgon landscape	Emissions of 1,000,000 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ e) are being avoided in the Mt Elgon landscape	At least 4,000,000 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ e)	10,834,692 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ e)			

Outputs

3.1.1: Measures to ensure sustainable restoration of degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes in the nine project districts put in place

3.1.2: Stakeholder awareness and understanding of the benefits of restoring degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes to communities, local economies and nature increased

3.1.3 Degraded forests, fragile lands and unstable slopes restored

4.1: Sector agencies and relevant institutions applying ILM approaches in their planning and policies.	District local governments producing M&E reports based on actual data that show trends in adoption of ILM approaches	Current M&E reports from local governments do not show trends in adoption of ILM approaches	At least four district local governments producing M&E reports based on actual data showing trends in adoption of ILM approaches	All nine district local governments M&E reports based on actual data showing trends in adoption of ILM approaches	PIR report, Annual progress reports, monitoring reports, minutes of meetings, informant interviews, questionnaire administration	Assumptions: - Regional bodies, central government ministries & agencies and district local governments are cooperating, farmer groups and the private sector organizations are cooperating, Avenues for information dissemination are readily available Risks: - Elite capture. The lack of education and capacity at local level can benefit only a few groups and can eventually create conflicts between members of society and such elites	
	Members of FOLUR-supported Communities of Practice replicating shared best practices and lessons learned at landscape, national and regional levels	Limited adoption of best practices and lessons learned at landscape level	At least four farms/sites (Communities of Practice) adopting / replicating best practices and lessons learned at landscape level	20 farms/sites 9Communities of Practice0 adopting/replicating best practices and lessons learned at landscape, national and regional levels			

	National and regional multi-stakeholder platforms (AFR100) championing ILM practices	Multistakeholder platforms championing ILM practices exist at landscape level	At least one national multi-stakeholder platform (AFR100) championing ILM practices at the national level	Atleast two (2) national and regional multi-stakeholder platforms (AFR100) championing ILM practices at the national and regional levels			
Outputs 4.1.1: An interactive M&E system developed and operationalized to track implementation of ILM in Mt. Elgon landscape for purpose for scaling in similar areas in Uganda 4.1.2: Best practices and lessons learned documented and shared at landscape, national and regional levels to inform uptake of ILM practices and policy 4.1.3: Best practices and lessons learned shared at landscape, national and regional levels to inform uptake of ILM practices and policy 4.1.4: Best practices and lessons learned shared at regional and global FOLUR partners and CPs meetings and conferences in the Global Platform.							

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Annex B: Response to Project Reviews
See attached annexes

Council comments

Council comments	
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<p>? France Comments</p> <p>? France of course supports this project which aims at the sustainable management of land and forests and the greening / sustainability of value chains by targeting large producer countries.</p> <p>? It would be interesting to explore potential coordination with the French national strategy to combat imported deforestation (SNDI), the European strategies on the subject, and with the alliance for tropical forests.</p> <p>? (Note that translation in English from French is by the GEF Secretariat)</p>	<p>The Uganda child project will promote several initiatives that integrate coordination and/or collaboration with several European initiatives on deforestation. Through support of deforestation-free commodities, High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss will be avoided while climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices and an increase in vegetation cover across landscape will be promoted. Appropriate restoration strategies will be used to restore degraded natural ecosystems.</p> <p>Participate in the AFR100 regional and global meetings and conferences to identify, and tap into technical support and financial resources to support upscaling of priority restoration efforts, and drive sector investments in zero deforestation agriculture, food security and climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>
<p>? Germany Comments</p> <p>Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:</p> <p>? Germany asks to clarify the following aspects in the final project proposal: How will local governments and civil society organizations in the respective countries be strengthened as change agents of an enabling environment? What are country specific risks and mitigation strategies with regards to current political priorities and institutional capacities (esp. with regard to environmental, civil society and indigenous issues)? How is the LDN response hierarchy addressed (priority on avoiding land degradation) in order not to incentivize degradation through restoration support?</p> <p>? In addition, Germany recommends taking into account ongoing initiatives of the German ONE WORLD - No Hunger Initiative regarding the Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector (i.a. in Nigeria, India) as well as regarding Soil Conservation and Soil Rehabilitation for Food Security (India).</p>	<p>The Uganda child project will be implemented in partnership with all the nine district local governments in the Mt. Elgon landscape. Under Component 1, the project will support the mainstreaming of Integrated Landscape Management approaches and biodiversity conservation into the district development plans. In addition, the strengthen the institutional and organizational capabilities of district extension workers, key local government leaders and civil society through training in governance, law enforcement and compliance monitoring to improve the regulatory environment, tenure rights and security of land rights holders, and encourage multi-stakeholder engagement. In order not to incentivize degradation through restoration support, the respective LDN hierarchy (Avoid, Reduce and Reverse) is addressed through: (i) using practices that increase land use/management planning, or climate smart agriculture [Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.4 and 2.1.1], (ii) Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) practices [Outputs 2.1.1], and (iii) restoration or rehabilitation of degraded unproductive land (Output 3.1.3).</p>

<p>? Canada Comments ? We recommend that Fundacion para la Conservacion del Bosque Chiquitano (FCBC) be invited to be a stakeholder in this GEF project. FCBC is a non-profit organization based in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, whose geographic scope includes the entire department of Santa Cruz and focuses on the ecosystems with the greatest environmental vulnerability, especially the Chiquitano Dry Forest, the Cerrado and the Chaco. FCBC has promoted the design and implementation of around 500 projects and initiatives at different scales, especially in the Chiquitania region, both with the public and private sectors and in close collaboration with the social actors and authorities of the region and with different local and national and international partner organizations.</p>	<p>Not applicable to Uganda</p>
<p>? United States Comments ? We support the FOLUR program and these addenda and have some additional comments for improvement. First, our understanding of the phrase and concept of ?food systems? and ?transforming food systems? refers to a holistic, systems-approach to food and agriculture, including very prominently, nutrition and diet. The lack therefore, of mention of nutrition and diet in the projects is of concern, and we recommend that these important concepts not be isolated from broader transformative work on the biodiversity and ecosystem, and overall environment sustainability considerations of food system transformation discussions. ? Additionally, we will closely track the performance of both Nucafe and the Bugisu Co-op, which we believe will benefit from close monitoring.</p>	<p>We welcome this comment and take note of its importance. We relate this to the inclusion of food crops (maize, banana, beans and Irish potato) production systems, in addition to the main target i.e. coffee production system (see Outcome 2.1 of the ProDoc, Section 1.3 of the CEO ER). These crops were selected for, among other reasons, food security and nutrition, in harmony with Uganda?s Vision 2040 and the third National Development Plan (NDP III) (2020/2021?2024/2025). Additionally, the private sector organization NUCAFE was not able to join in the partnership, due to other commitments on the development of a similar project in Uganda. However, three other private sector organizations (Kalaa Mugosi Women Empowerment Ltd, Mt. Elgon Agroforestry Communities Cooperative Enterprise Ltd and Bushika Integrated Area Cooperative Enterprise Ltd) showed interest and joined the project partnership. These will benefit from close monitoring.</p>
<p>STAP comments Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Even if there is no specific comment on Uganda from STAP and Council, some general comments apply to all the Child Projects and should thus be addressed under the Annex B in the Portal entry. Please, check these comments under the PFD #10201 and respond appropriately.</p>	<p>The responses to the STAP comments are provided on a separate sheet.</p>
<p>STAP comments</p>	<p></p>

Annex B: Response to STAP comments in the Project Reviews

Guidance from STAP

Comment/Question	Response from the Uganda child project
<p>STAP Overall Assessment</p> <p>More detail should be provided during full program development regarding systematic risk identification and assessment of risk management options and strategies.</p> <p>Gender equality aspects merit deeper analysis during full program preparation, particularly regarding barriers to gender-equitable resource access and tenure rights, and to inclusive decision-making in landscape-level planning and policy formulation.</p>	<p>Risks have been systematically identified in a participatory approach with stakeholders and are specified in section 3.5 of the ProDoc and section 5 of the CEO Endorsement Request.</p> <p>A detailed analysis of barriers hindering gender equitable resource access and tenure rights was carried out during the PPG phase and is presented in the description of the gender barriers section 2.3 of the ProDoc and section 1.1 of the CEO Endorsement Request. In addition, further gender analysis will be conducted as a focus for Output 1.1.4 (<i>Barriers hindering gender (women, men, people with disabilities (PWDs), youth, vulnerable groups etc.) from participating in ILM approaches identified and addressed</i>), resulting into a specific Gender Action Plan, which will guide implementation of actions to equitable gender participation and decision making in ILM. In addition, a gender mainstreaming plan has been developed as Appendix 16 of the ProDoc</p>
<p>The proposed alternative scenario</p>	
<p>What is the theory of change?</p> <p>Given the breadth of the program, it would be advisable to additionally develop, in consultation with key partners, a particular theory of change for each of the value chains, drawing upon a common language of the overall program theory of change. This would both clarify the change pathways that each constellation of value chain and country partners will pursue, and it would enable comparative analysis and exchange across these groupings.</p>	<p>The Uganda child project will specifically address the coffee crop value chain and production system. The theory of change for the Uganda project therefore mainly focuses on coffee as the main strategic crop for the global FOLUR project. Therefore, the ToC provide change pathways for: a) Development of Integrated Landscape Management Systems, b) Promotion of sustainable food production practices and responsible commodity value chains, i.e. CSA in coffee, banana, maize, Irish potato production; c) Restoration of natural habitats (forests); and d) Knowledge management</p>

<p>Is there recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes?</p> <p>Possible adaptations not addressed as part of the theory of change but later as part of the risk assessment and risk management plan.</p>	<p>Adaptations required during project implementation are recognised and have been planned for. These include: 1) mainstreaming of mitigation and adaptation strategies/plans into national and district development plans; 2) strengthening the institutional and organizational capabilities of sub-national and national institutions for the implementation of ILM through training and organisational management; 3) participatory land use management planning process leading to effective land use plans.</p>
<p>Are the benefits truly global environmental benefits, and are they measurable?</p> <p>The main emphasis is on local and regional benefits, and the resulting GEBs. Little attention is devoted to trade-offs and possibly negative side effects, though social and environmental risks are mentioned in the Risks section. There is little explicit attention to power dynamics, including potential winners and losers from the changes envisioned and how potential conflicts may be addressed. This will be essential to address explicitly during the course of full program development, with regards to each value chain and country project.</p>	<p>The power dynamics, potential winners and losers are presented in a carefully considered risk identification form (Appendix 10), in which the mitigation measures are also considered. A detailed conflict (grievances) resolution mechanism is provided in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Appendix 15).</p>
<p>What activities will be implemented to increase the project's resilience to climate change?</p> <p>Climate resilience not addressed in detail, though mentioned in the section on risks. The proposed response to climate change is quite general at this level; more detail expected in development of country projects and in program-level monitoring and targeted capacity support functions.</p>	<p>The project specific activities that will be implemented to promote climate resilience are provided in great detail in Component 2 (Output 2.1.1) and Component 3 (Outputs 3.1.1 and 3.1.2). In addition, climate screening was carried out during the PPG phase and the report of this exercise (Appendix 9) provides measures for promoting climate resilience during project implementation.</p>

Is the project innovative, for example, in its design, method of financing, technology, business model, policy, monitoring and evaluation, or learning?

The program is innovative in its concept, structure, and the combination of global and country-level engagements. Specific innovations are expected to emerge from CPs. Emphasis is on policy and institutional innovations. More thinking about possible technological, financing, and business model innovations would be desirable, from which each country and the IP as a whole could benefit. The theory of change relies strongly on the interactions between innovations at landscape / country level and in regional / global value chains. Therefore, attention is needed during full program development to explicitly identify innovations at each of these levels. Given the broad geographic and value chain coverage of the program, a hallmark contribution may be innovative approaches to rapidly scale tested solutions ? working across countries and value chains. Moreover, a view on the different ways to scale (see notes on scaling out, up or deep in STAP priority criteria document) would also ask whether there are cultural norms or other cultural barriers which require innovative responses as well, for example, in areas such as consumer demand, rule enforcement, or indigenous peoples' rights. These may not be the most salient barriers, but it is useful to explicitly consider these

The Uganda child project has been designed in to deliver innovative interventions such as CSA & SLM, farm diversification, incentives (revolving funds and credit schemes), sustainable market linkages and responsible value chains reduce the vulnerability of local community to natural disasters and climate change and empowers them to conserve HVCF which maintains or enhances carbon stocks and biodiversity conservation and mitigates impacts of climate change. In addition, initiatives such as promoting the Community Environment Conservation Fund (CECF) and sustainable agriculture production is an innovative incentive finance scheme for forest landscape restoration (FLR) which has the full support of government to integrate it into planning for sustainability. With respect to cultural barriers, these have been carefully considered in the risk analysis (section 3.5 of the ProDoc and section 5 of the CEO ER) and measures have been put in place in the design of the project to avoid any conflict in this area.

Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?

Given the geographic and commodity coverage of this IP, scaling up beyond country-level outcomes is integral to planned program-level outcomes, targeting fundamental transformation in food systems. Achieving these outcomes at scale is likely to be more difficult than it seems to be depicted. In particular, the scaling potential relies significantly on shifting patterns of investment, with the intent that "policy and coordination platforms will crowd-in investment," but it remains unclear how this will be achieved. Barriers to adoption of innovations at landscape level and in value chains are addressed well, if still at a general level, in the discussion of governance issues and in program risks. But explicit barriers to scaling and transformation are less well-covered. The program design brings the advantage of planned engagement with key industry platforms, partnerships and global initiatives that, collectively, bring a vast range of experience, including experience confronting barriers to scaling and system transformation. The PFD notes plans for in-depth consultation during full program development. This should offer an excellent opportunity to probe this experience, including participatory processes to surface emergent lessons that may not yet have been explicitly identified and documented.

The Uganda child project provides a detailed and well-articulated pathway for knowledge management (sharing, learning and scaling up) through which improved Integrated Landscape Management approaches at landscape, national and regional levels is expected to be realized. The Project will contribute to lessons learned and good practices for wider adoption, replication, leveraging and dissemination of FOLUR IP actions and results through landscape, country, regional and global platforms and knowledge networks in collaboration with the Global Platform. This will be achieved by delivering on four gender-responsive outputs and activities: (i) developing and operationalizing an interactive M&E system for purposes of scaling out in similar areas in Uganda (Output 4.1.1), (ii) documenting best practices and lessons learned and training key stakeholders in that respect for sustainability purposes (output 4.1.2) and, (iii) sharing of best practices and lessons learned through multi-stakeholder platforms linked to AFR 100 to inform uptake of ILM practices and policy (Output 4.1.3), and (iv) sharing best practices and lessons learned through regional and global FOLUR partners and CPs meetings and conferences (Output 4.1.4).

<p>Have all the key relevant stakeholders been identified to cover the complexity of the problem, and project implementation barriers?</p> <p>Yes, including strong identification of relevant multi-stakeholder platforms and initiatives. Multi-stakeholder interactions and collaboration are at the heart of the program design. Various types of interactions are discussed, but in the next stage of program development these should be presented more specifically to assess their feasibility and potential effectiveness. In particular, it will be essential to describe the value addition of the IP in relation to existing platforms and initiatives, and to validate (from the perspective of actors engaged in these) the demand for specific inputs, knowledge products, policy dialogue activities, or other services. Moreover, it will be essential to show plans for ensuring that all child projects are appropriately engaged with the appropriate global and regional platforms during the period of full project design. If this is done in particular with an eye to testing and validating for each country project the barriers, planned innovations and theory of change, this can help bring critical insights to project design that will aid subsequent scaling at the program level.</p>	<p>Yes, all the key stakeholders have been identified in a comprehensive and detailed exercise which took place during PPG. The full trail of the consultations is provided as annexes in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Appendix 15).</p>
<p>What are the stakeholders? roles, and how will their combined roles contribute to robust project design, to achieving global environmental outcomes, and to lessons learned and knowledge?</p> <p>All key public and private sector actors assumed to join in following their respective mandates and commitments. Expected engagement of civil society actors is dependent upon existing networks and platforms.</p>	<p>A detailed description of the stakeholders roles is provided in section 2.5 of the ProDoc and section 2 of the CEO ER. The roles will vary and include receiving and disbursing project funding, technical guidance on climate change, climate smart agriculture, forest and restoration, value chain development and value addition, knowledge management, planning, compliance with statutory and policy requirements, gender equity, tree planting, forest restoration and conservation, wildlife management and conservation, community-based natural resource management including livelihood activities, promotion of sustainable coffee production, increased quality coffee production and marketing, market acquisition for smallholder farmers livelihoods, training and research.</p>
<p>Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?</p> <p>Yes, including strong intention to develop action plans that address linked dimensions of access to productive assets, inclusive decision-making, and benefit sharing. Gender sensitive indicators are missing ? but dimensions above indicate a suitable framework. Consider applying indicators and measurement protocols of Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI).</p>	<p>Yes, gender differentiated risks and opportunities have been identified and an action plan of their mitigation has been developed as a gender mainstreaming plan (Appendix 16).</p>

<p>Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?</p> <p>No hindrance indicated, but this merits deeper analysis during full program preparation, particularly regarding barriers to gender-equitable resource access and tenure rights, and to inclusive decision-making in landscape-level planning and policy formulation.</p>	<p>Yes, gender hindrances, such as lack of equal access to and ownership of property (including land) have been indicated, but a deep analysis has been performed during the PPG, and several mitigation measures and opportunities have been identified (see the Gender mainstreaming plan ? Appendix 16). The project plans to reinforce this by conducting a detailed gender gap analysis at the outset and using these lessons to reinforce the gender mainstreaming plan.</p>
<p>Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project?</p> <p>Various kinds of policy, government and other stakeholder risks are mentioned (such as policy change, non-delivery of agreed contributions). While generic policy and governance risks are noted, there is inadequate explicit attention to political and economic interests that could (and are likely to) oppose desired changes.</p>	<p>Yes, several social and environmental risks with the potential to affect the project have been identified. These include gender inequity and inequality; low environmental impact awareness; biodiversity loss; and diminishing carbon stocks. Several mitigation measures contained in section 2.5 of the ProDoc, section 3.5 of the CEO ER, Appendices 9, 10, 15 and 16) have been identified for these risks.</p>
<p>How will the project's objectives or outputs be affected by climate risks over the period 2020 to 2050, and have the impact of these risks been addressed adequately?</p> <p>Although various longer-term drivers are identified (as summarized in the ?contextual factors?, theory of change Fig.2), their implications are poorly analysed. FOLUR cannot expect to change these, but it can ensure that all projects are thinking about the significance of these factors and whether they mean different approaches might be more robust to future change. This would consider, for example, if future climate may undermine productivity of (or even demand for) a current staple in a region, then either improved management of that staple is addressed as an explicitly interim strategy while other solutions are developed; or improved management might be aimed at a different crop that is robust to the expected change in climate. Either way, at least the project level activities should include discussion of these possibilities early in design.</p>	<p>The Mt. Elgon region, under a no intervention scenario, expects to experience increased water shortage, crop damage/loss, household food insecurity, soil erosion, water pollution and increased incidences of diseases. The project has, however, identified interventions to address these climate risks through ILM, SLM, CSA, restoration and knowledge sharing.</p>
<p>Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed?</p> <p>No climate impact assessment is presented; only the possibility of climate change impacts on productivity and resilience is alluded to. Since impacts will be region and location-specific, climate impact assessments and response strategies will need to be developed in the country projects.</p>	<p>Yes, a rapid climate change assessment has been performed under the CRISTAL tool. This has identified drought, landslides and flooding as the major risks for the Mt. Elgon landscape.</p>

<p>Have resilience practices and measures to address projected climate risks and impacts been considered? How will these be dealt with?</p> <p>Climate mitigation and adaptation goals are well integrated in the high-level program description, and climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices and technologies are integral to the planned landscape-level responses. Yet, assessment of program-level sensitivity to climate impacts is not presented.</p>	<p>Yes, climate mitigation and adaptation measures have been considered in the project. These include CSA practices as well as other interventions such protection of water sources and river banks (Output 3.1.3), promotion of drought resistant and early maturing crop varieties (Output 2.1.1), development of food storage infrastructure (Outcome 2.2), Contour/grass bunds (Output 2.1.1).</p>
<p>What technical and institutional capacity, and information, will be needed to address climate risks and resilience enhancement measures?</p> <p>Only generic reference to national climate change action plans is made. Systematic climate impact and adaptation assessments will require atmospheric/climate scientists to produce a range of plausible scenarios of regional climate change for the next few decades, and ecological, technology / economic experts to assess the potential impacts on climate-sensitive ecosystems and sectors together with various types of vulnerability and adaptation options under those scenarios. In addition, the Risk table mentions possible but significant social and environmental risks posed by the country projects but does not indicated what risks; only the Global Coordination Project is mentioned to undertake risk assessment and mitigation advisory service. More detail should be provided during full program development regarding systematic risk identification and assessment of risk management options and strategies.</p>	<p>The project will collect the following information to address the climate risks and resilience enhancement measures: i) land use, ii) vulnerability to climate change impacts, iii) integrated natural resource management technologies and good practices, iv) ecosystems (water, forests, pasture land, agricultural land, wetlands, rivers, etc.), v) local livelihoods, strengths and weaknesses, and vi) gaps in local government development plans on land use planning, climate change and vulnerability. This information will be a starting point for: a) identifying suitable adaptation and resilience measures that reduce vulnerability, increase adaptive capacities and decrease sensitivity to climate variability and change; b) developing indicators for tracking changes in climate change vulnerability over time; c) monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of adaptation/resilience measures, and d) generating additional knowledge on the effectiveness of the adaptation/resilience measures applied.</p>

What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge management indicators and metrics will be used?

KM is a central element of the program. One of the three pillars of the global platform is explicitly devoted to KM and communications. Yet no KM indicators and metrics are specified; these will be needed to prepare more specific KM plans and actions. As noted in the main STAP screen, KM is a central element of the program, and the explicit focus of one of the three global platform pillars. Yet no KM indicators and metrics are specified; doing so will be important to help prepare more specific KM plans and actions. development. Also, although learning is discussed, it is not yet clear how this learning will be applied to support adaptive management in program implementation, for example using a regular review of the nested theories of change at program and project levels as a structured approach to this. See, for example, Thornton et al (2017) for description of such an approach. Thornton, P.K., Schuetz, T., Forch, W., Cramer, L., Abreu, D., Vermeulen, S. & Campbell, B.M. 2017 Responding to global change: A theory of change approach to making agricultural research for development outcome-based. *Agricultural Systems* 152, 145-153.

Knowledge management has been considered by the Uganda child project as a very important and distinct component. The approach taken by the project to facilitate and enhance knowledge management (sharing, learning and scaling up) is through an interactive M&E system to track implementation of ILM in Mt. Elgon landscape for purposes of scaling out in similar areas in Uganda and beyond. This will result into the following indicators: i) better understanding, amongst local farmers, of the connection between farmland productivity and ecosystem health (reduced land degradation, restored watersheds, increased crop yields), ii) improved local level policies on agriculture and related other sectoral policies, iii) enhanced learning at local to national levels, through better access to information, networking, capacity building and leadership development, and iv) community interaction and peace building.

<p>What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience?</p> <p>Proposed plans for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results are presented at a general level. They include a global platform for transferring knowledge and information in multiple directions: from country programs up, from the global dissemination platform down, and through fostering South-South exchange. The planned focal activities (testing methods, learning, capturing, sharing lessons) are reasonably identified at this stage. The specified objectives are also sensible but a more detailed operational plan would be needed during full program development.</p>	<p>The plans that have been proposed for sharing, dissemination and scaling up of results, lessons and experience include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Uganda ? landscape level: (a) exchange visits for farmer associations and groups within Mt. Elgon Ecosystem, (b) exchange visits for farmer associations and groups with their counterparts implementing similar interventions in the Mt. Rwenzori Ecosystem and Lake Albert Water Management Zone (areas with similar coffee production systems with Mt. Elgon, (c) inter-sector and multi-stakeholder participatory monitoring and evaluation missions, (d) Mt. Elgon Stakeholders? Forum Annual General Assemblies, and Awoja Catchment Annual Catchment Management Committee (CMCs) meetings, (e) National events e.g. Annual Water Week, the Mountain Ecosystem Forum Annual conference and Annual Joint Sector Review meetings involving CSOs, PSOs and GoU Policy Makers. 2) Uganda-Kenya landscape level: (a) exchange visits for farmer associations and groups with their counterparts in the Kenya GEF child project, (b) exchange visits for key project technical staff with their counterparts in the Kenya GEF child project, 3) Africa (AFR100) level: regional and global meetings and conferences. 4) Global Platform level: (a) meetings of global FOLUR country projects and partners, (b) linkages and synergies with the Global Platform on training and technical assistance, (c) linkages and synergies with the Global Platform in documentation and sharing of best practices and success stories.
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ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).
(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Annex C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 200,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
International consultant and team leader	32,262	20,000	12,262
National Experts	50,000	40,000	10,000
Travels	20,000	20,000	-
meetings/workshops/conferences/meetings	95,738	95,738	-
Office supplies/stationary	2,000	2,000	-
Total	200,000	177,738	22,262

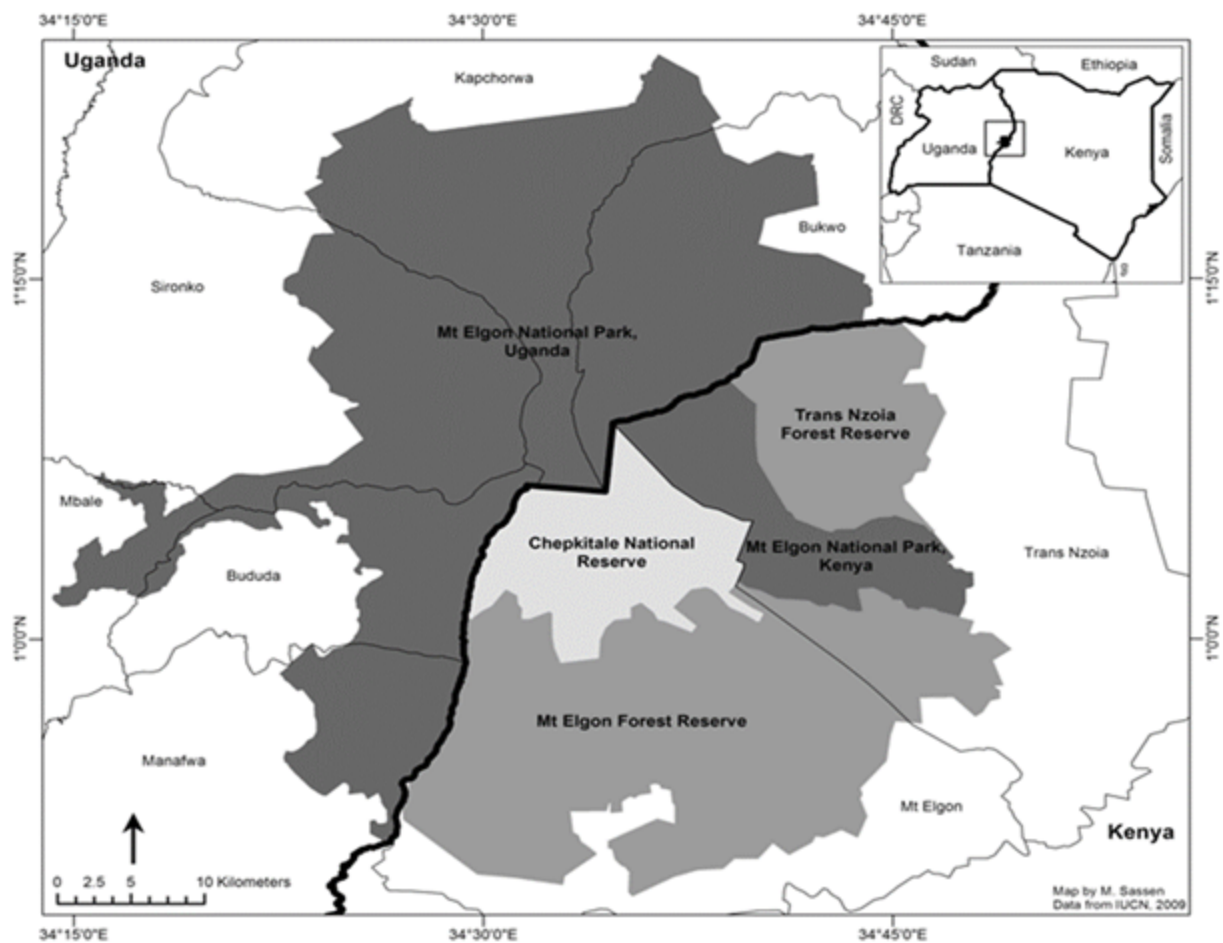
If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake exclusively preparation activities up to one year of CEO Endorsement/approval date. No later than one year from CEO endorsement/approval date. Agencies should report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

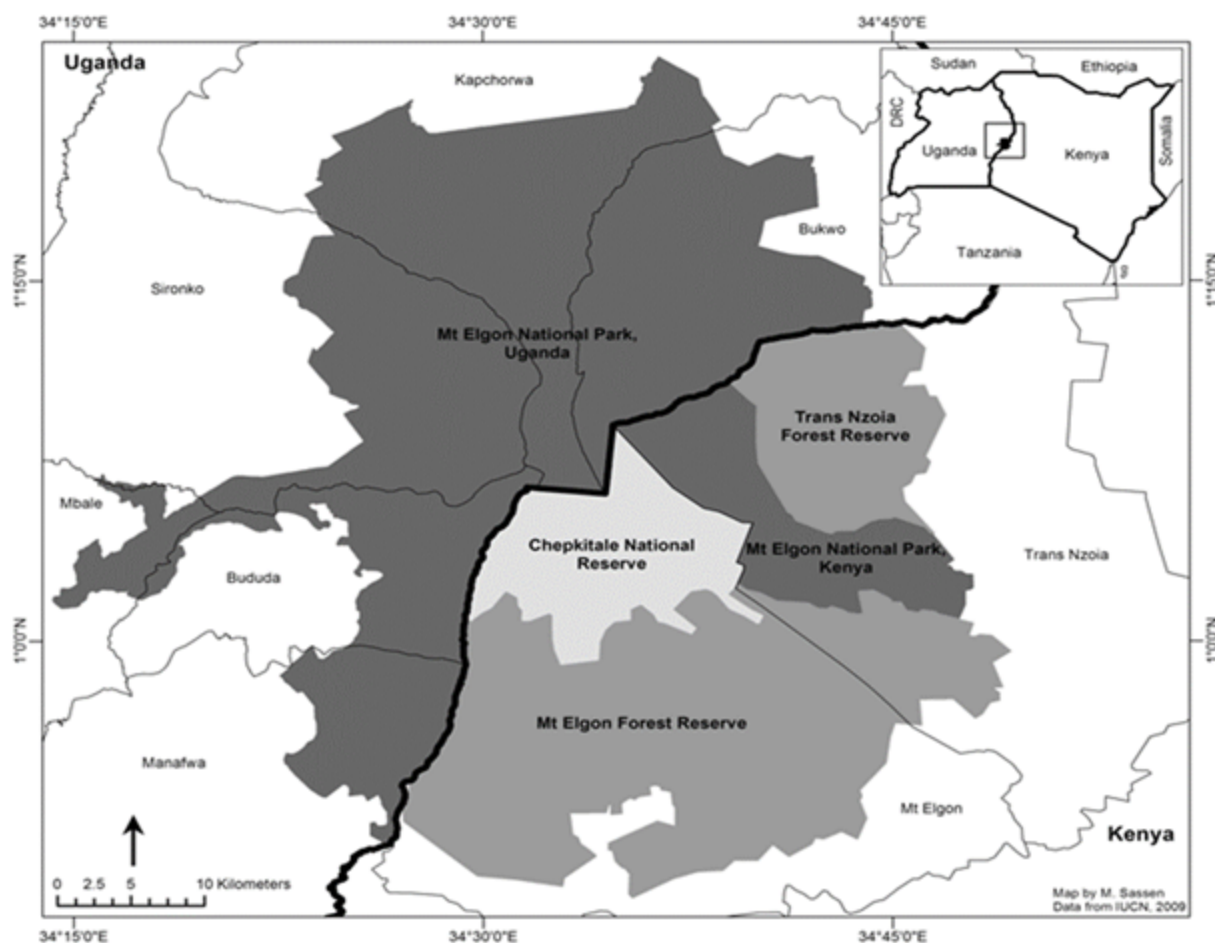
ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

Project Map and Geo-Coordinates

Location: 0° 49' 0.00" - 1° 24' 59.99" N and 34° 08' 60.00" - 34° 43' 59.99" E





ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

See the attached budget which is uploaded as appendix 1 on the portal

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

N/A

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

N/a

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).

N/A