

## Ecosystem Based Adaptation Project: Adapting to Climate Change in Mountainous Areas in Uganda



*Bee-keeping is one of the initiatives the project is encouraging communities to take on as an alternative source of income to protect trees and the ecosystems in the Mount Elgon region.*

### Background of Project

Healthy ecosystems deliver critical goods and services including food, water, fuel and raw materials. People depend on these goods and services for their wellbeing and livelihoods. However, due to climate change and other impacts, many such ecosystems have become degraded or negatively affected.

Ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) is an emerging approach that helps people to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. It is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy. EBA uses sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, taking into account anticipated climate change impact trends, to reduce the vulnerability and improve the resilience of ecosystems and people to climate change impacts.

Uganda is vulnerable to climate change, including increasing temperatures and rainfall, which are having far-reaching consequences on the intensity and occurrences of hazards in Uganda's mountain areas. The most significant future climate change challenges for the mountain ecosystems of Uganda are floods and landslides with impacts on the health, food security and the economic development potential of the population. Enhancing ecological services such as catchment and natural resource management (including restoration) could reduce such vulnerabilities and enhance livelihoods.

It is for this reason and its being party to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) that it was chosen to be part of the pilot countries for the Ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) Project. The other countries participating in this global initiative are Nepal and Peru in Southern America.

The Programme's underlying approach is to support communities and countries to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change through improved biodiversity and ecosystem services. This is being done as part of overall local and national level adaptation strategies, while taking into account risk management and resilience enhancement.

## Implementing Partners

EBA is jointly implemented by UNDP, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Others include; the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, National Planning Authority, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy, Minerals Development, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Uganda Wildlife Authority; Uganda National Meteorological Authority, Makerere University Institute of Natural Resources; National Forestry Authority, National Environment Management Authority; Members of the Mt Elgon Stakeholders Forum; and the Kapchorwa, Kween, Sironko, & Bolambuli District Local Governments.

## Project Cost & Donors

The Project is funded by the German Government through the International Climate Initiative of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) to a tune of 12.5m Euros. Uganda's allocation is US\$2,356,149.

## Project Geographical Location (Areas of Coverage)

The Project is being implemented in Eastern Uganda, particularly in the Mountain Elgon region ecosystem on catchments of the River Sippi (60 villages), River Sironko (40 Villages), the River Ngenge (38 villages), and the River Kaptokwoi (25 villages), covering 6,161 households.

## Project Results/Outputs

1. A Vulnerability Impact Assessment (VIA) has been carried out to determine which interventions can be used to support the communities in the selected project area.
2. Upto 600 households within the 4 districts (Kween, Kapchorwa, Sironko & Bulambuli) have received training in climate smart interventions and are implementing them on their land. Local platforms including local radios are being used for knowledge sharing.
3. Techniques including mulching, and use of organic fertilizer, improved water retention through roadside drainage bunds, run off retention drains, diversion bands in crop gardens; gravity flow irrigation (benefitting over 1,000 formerly water stressed community members in 3 villages in Sanzara Parish) have been encouraged.
4. Practices like soil and water conservation structures including contour trenches, contour ridges, retention or check dams, infiltration ditches and contour bands; tree planting for stabilization of soil and water conservation, with appropriate species together with contour grass strips; and the management and protection of existing forests and trees on the farm have also been promoted.
5. At the Local governance level, structures for natural resource governance have been strengthened including a schematic framework for managing the adaptation fund in all the three catchments including the communities and district technical staff.

### Key Contact Persons/Addresses of IPs and Implementing Agencies

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#### Supported by:



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