CONCEPT NOTE FOR SACRiAC PROJECT LAUNCH

Introduction

The Government of Uganda (GOU) has received funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the development of the Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity and Resilience of Communities in Uganda's watersheds project (SACRiAC). The Project's Executing Agency Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) is responsible for the overall implementation and management of the Project.

The project (SACRiAC) objective is to build adaptive capacity of rural communities and reduce their vulnerability to climate change and improve rural livelihoodsand food security through integrated watershed management, climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainable agriculture.

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

Background

Uganda's economy and local communities are vulnerable to climate change and variability as a result of several compounding factors: i) heavy reliance on natural resources, particularly within the agricultural sector; ii) dependence on rain-fed agriculture; iii) close linkages between agriculture performance and climatic changes – with the gross domestic product (GDP) and inflation rates closely corresponding to seasonal rainfall patterns; iv) high population growth rates – ~3.6% per year – that in combination with high poverty levels reduce capacity to cope with climate hazards; v) low per capita income; vi) limited financial capacity to fund adaptation measures; vii) weak and inadequate infrastructure; viii) inadequate supply of clean water and sanitation facilities; and ix) inadequate availability of health and medical services.

Floods and droughts have the greatest impacts on local communities as well as socio-economic sectors – particularly the agriculture sector. Other predicted socio-economic impacts will result in the reduction of: i) national security; ii) the life-span and durability of infrastructure; iii) hydropower production; iv) human health; and v) ecosystem integrity, and thus natural capital. Climate change is expected to disproportionately affect vulnerable groups. These include the poor, people living with disability and HIV/AIDS, youth and children – orphans in particular – the elderly, refugees, and marginalized communities.

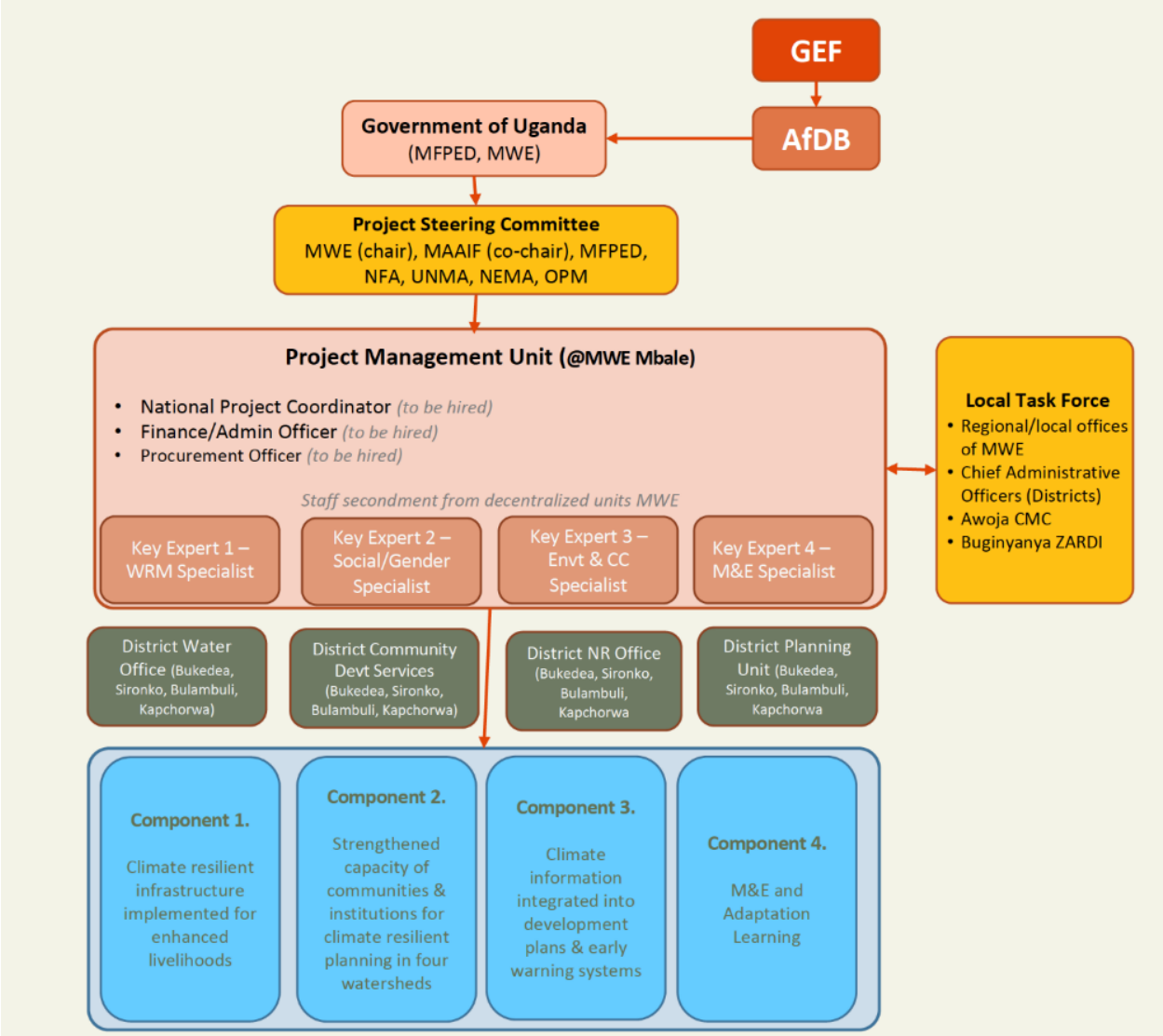
Current and future impacts of climate change, therefore, make adaptation urgent. Without adaptation, the negative effects of climate change will undermine years of development assistance and asset accumulation in Uganda. Effective adaptation planning –in the context of this project and in particular for an increase in intensity and frequency of droughts, floods and severe storms requires (i) improved climate monitoring and early warning systems, (ii) reduced vulnerability of people, livelihoods, physical assets and watersheds to the adverse effects of climate change, through improved storage and reduced land degradation and (iii) Strengthening institutional capacities for effective climate change Adaptation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Compo-nents/ Programs	**Compone nt Type**	**Project Outcomes**	**Project Outputs**
1.Climate resilient infrastructure implemented for enhanced livelihoods	Investment	1.1 Climate resilient watershed management reduces the vulnerability of local communities and physical assets and natural systems	1.1.1 Afforestation/ Reforestation of an estimated 2,500 ha of forest land 1.1.2 Community support for agroforestrypractices to an estimated 3,000 ha 1.1.3 Community support for conservation agriculture for an estimated 3,500 ha in selected degraded areas 1.1.4 Alternative climate resilient livelihood options (fish farm integrated units, fruit orchard, honey production, briquette production, ISSBs) promoting sustainable wetland/watershed management and sustainable resource management and restoration developed and promoted
		1.2 Reduced risk of river flooding increases resilience of local communities	1.2.1 25 km riverbank protection/restoration intervention, including small-scale flood reduction infrastructure in selected areas integrated with ecological measures
		1.3 Increased climate resilience through improved water access	1.3.1 Climate-resilient community water supply systems constructed 1.3.2 Climate-resilient community-based water harvesting, storage and distribution systems (valley tanks/small earth dams) designed/ built in the five watersheds (300,000 m^3), based on projected changes in rainfall patterns and intensity. 1.3.3 20 community rainwater harvesting tanks provided for communal use
2. Strengthened capacity of communities and institutions for climate resilient planning in four watersheds	Technical Assistance	2.1 Strengthened capacity of communities to implement measures for wetland and watershed management for climate resilience	2.1.1 One watershed level climate resilient action plan produced for the upper reaches of river Sironko and the 2 existing watershed level plans (Sipi and lake Okolirotom) revised to mainstream climate change resilience 2.1.2 Capacity building undertaken for community-driven wetlands & riverbank management, climate change adaptation & mitigation, and forest management. 2.1.3 Community awareness for reforestation, forest management, riverbank & wetland management, and soil conservation.
		2.2 Strengthened institutional and planning capacity for climate resilience	2.2.1 Technical advice and support to local governments (district and subcounty level) and sub catchment and micro catchment management committees in integration of climate resilience into development plans 2.2.2 Wetlands Management Plans prepared and implemented
3. Climate information integrated into	Technical Assistance	3.1 Improved access to climate information and early warning	3.1.1 Expansion of weather and climate observing network relevant to the project area 3.1.2 Expansion of hydrological and Hydrogeological

development plans & early warning systems		systems at national, watershed and local levels	network relevant to the project area 3.1.3 Development of Strategy for scaling-up the climate and weather information systems, and enhancement of station operation and maintenance in the long term.
		3.2 Efficient and effective use of hydrometeorological information for making early warnings.	3.2.1 Development and installation of a flood and drought early warning and response system for the Kyoga basin 3.2.2 Development, packaging and dissemination of weather and climate information for sensitizing vulnerable communities on weather and climate information use 3.2.3 Strengthening human resources capacity in weather observing, forecasting and information management, surface and groundwater monitoring
4. M&E and Adaptation Learning	Technical Assistance	4.1 Lessons learned and best practices from pilot activities, capacity development initiatives disseminated	4.1.1 Knowledge management system in placeand operational 4.1.2 Development and dissemination of knowledge and learning materials on climate change, rural infrastructure and ecosystem management through existing networks and platforms.
		4.2 M&E apply pursued, and lessons captured and widely disseminated	4.2.1 M&E system designed and implemented at all levels 4.2.2 Compilation of project good practices and lessons learned documented and disseminated to raise awareness on effective adaptive management options for further upscaling

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


GEF
AfDB
Government of Uganda
(MFPED, MWE)
Project Steering Committee
MWE (chair), MAAIF (co-chair), MFPED, NFA, UNMA, NEMA, OPM
Project Management Unit (@MWE Mbale)
National Project Coordinator (to be hired)
Finance/Admin Officer (to be hired)
Procurement Officer (to be hired)
Staff secondment from decentralized units MWE
Key Expert 1 – WRM Specialist
Key Expert 2 – Social/Gender Specialist
Key Expert 3 – Envt & CC Specialist
Key Expert 4 – M&E Specialist
Local Task Force
Regional/local offices of MWE
Chief Administrative Officers (Districts)
Awoja CMC
Buginyanya ZARDI
District Water Office (Bukedea, Sironko, Bulambuli, Kapchorwa)
District Community Devt Services (Bukedea, Sironko, Bulambuli, Kapchorwa)
District NR Office (Bukedea, Sironko, Bulambuli, Kapchorwa
District Planning Unit (Bukedea, Sironko, Bulambuli, Kapchorwa
Component 1.
Climate resilient infrastructure implemented for enhanced livelihoods
Component 2.
Strengthened capacity of communities & institutions for climate resilient planning in four watersheds
Component 3.
Climate information integrated into development plans & early warning systems
Component 4.
M&E and Adaptation Learning