

# Uganda

## Upscaling community resilience through ecosystem based disaster risk reduction

### INTRODUCTION

Upscaling community resilience through ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) is a three-year project (2019-2021) funded by the European Union (EU-DEVCO). It is being implemented by UNEP and Partners for Resilience consortium, which in Uganda includes of CARE International, CORDAID, and Wetlands International. The 28 month-project started in June 2019 and ends in December 2021. It is implemented in the Aswa Catchment, specifically in the 5 districts of Otuke, Agago, Alebtong, Abim and Kotido in Northern Uganda.

The consortium members will pursue an Integrated Risk Management (IRM) approach. This approach involves ecosystem management and restoration, climate change adaptation and mitigation; and disaster risk reduction, while mainstreaming gender in all its activities.

**Overall objective:** Strengthened resilience to disasters (including climate risk-related disasters) of 160,000 vulnerable women and men in 5 districts of Eastern Aswa Catchment in northern Uganda.

**Specific objective:** Strengthened integrated risk management and inclusive risk governance through the scaling up of Eco-DRR implementation, improved catchment-based water resources management that is risk-informed, gender and ecosystem-sensitive.

The action is intended to increase community resilience by improving capacity and coordination mechanisms amongst community structures, state and non-state actors and harnessing efforts to diversify livelihood options.

Project activities especially target enhancing leadership capacities of women and youth.



### MAIN PILLARS/ ACTIVITIES

#### RESTORATION

- Promotion of integrated pasture production and management in 6 model villages.
- Ensure restoration and demarcation of 4 depleted wetlands, including development and implementation of wetland management plans, sustainable mitigation measures.
- Reforestation of woodlands including the establishment of 5 indigenous tree nurseries,
- Promotion of farmer-managed natural tree regeneration practices (FMNTR) within the catchment.

#### PROTECTION

- Adoption and enforcement of community by-laws;
- Support participatory development and implementation of (gender sensitive) Wetland management plans; 
- Promotion of live fencing with Ke, Apple in 4 model villages;
- Introduction of Water Smart Agriculture based on the Reuse, Recharge and Retention (3Rs) approach;
- Developing viable eco-based livelihood options.

#### TARGET

- Direct Beneficiaries: 32,000
- Indirect Beneficiaries: 128,000
- Women: 80,000
- Ecosystems restored & protected; 40,000 ha.

## METHODS AND APPROACHES:

**The Integrated Risk Management (IRM) approach:** Adopted to suit the local context, IRM is the overall approach of the action, integrating ecosystem management and restoration, climate change adaptation, and DRR. Thus, very similar to the Eco-DRR approach.

**The Landscape approach:** An approach developed by the Partners for Resilience alliance, guided by the Uganda framework for Catchment Based Water Resources Management.

**Village Saving and Loans Association:** The VSLA model will be used as an entry point to maintain social cohesion and as a mechanism for vulnerable groups to cope with climate change shocks.

**Community-Based Monitoring Method:** This method empowers women and men in the community to participate and positively influence designs of development interventions, monitor their implementation, and use lessons from the monitoring to influence or improve performance of development work.

**Partnerships with the media:** collaborating with the media is important to raise issues such as the misuse and mismanagement of natural resources, inequity and unfair allocation of resources and good practices of ecosystem management to restore ecosystem integrity.

**Dialogue and advocacy sessions:** The project will conduct multi-stakeholder sessions, meetings, and workshops aimed at training, enabling dialogue, planning, reviewing progress, and to share knowledge and ideas. The actions will facilitate community group engagement with local government, and establish structures for ecosystem governance and climate change service obligation.

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

CARE International in Uganda

Tel: +256 312 258 100

[www.careuganda.org](http://www.careuganda.org)

Wetlands International  
Uganda

Tel: 0753469741

[africa.wetlands.org/east-africa](http://africa.wetlands.org/east-africa)

CORDAID

Tel: + 256772590289

[www.cordaid.org](http://www.cordaid.org)

