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**Terminal Evaluation Report of the**

**ADA-funded Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments in Eastern Uganda Project (RWACP)**

**Submitted to UNDP Country Office, Uganda**

|  |  |
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| **UNDP Project ID:** | 00126785 |
| **Country:** | Uganda |
| **Region:** | Africa |
| **Focal Area:** | Biodiversity |
| **Implementing Agency:** | United Nations Development Programme |
| **Executive:** | Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development |
| **Other Partners:** | Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda  District Local Governments of Butaleja, Budaka, Kibuku, Namutumba and Kaliro districts, Uganda |
| **Project Timeframe:** | 2021 – 2024 |

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September 2019

Disclaimer

Please note that the analysis and recommendations of this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), its Executive Board, or the United Nations Member States. This publication reflects the views of its authors.

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# Acronyms

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ADA | Austrian development Agency |
| CAO | Chief Administrative Officer |
| DEO | District Environment Officer |
| DFO | District Fisheries Officer |
| DIM | Direct Implementation Modality |
| DLG | District Local Government |
| DNRO | District Natural Resources Officer |
| EcoTrust | Environmental Conservation Trust |
| GCF | Green Climate Finance |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| hh | Household |
| MAAIF | Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries |
| Mt | Mega tons |
| MWE | Ministry of Water and Environment |
| NDC | Nationally Determined Contribution |
| NEMA | National Environment Management Authority |
| OECD | Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| PES | Payment for Ecosystem Services |
| PMU | Project Management Unit |
| RDC | Resident District Commissioner |
| RWACP | Restoration of Wetlands and Catchment Project |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| TE | Terminal Evaluation |
| ToC | Theory of Change |
| UNEG | United Nations Evaluation Group |
| UNSCF | United Nations Sustainable Cooperation Framework |
| VSLA | Village Savings and Loan Associations |
| WMZ | Water Management Zone |

# Executive Summary

Table 1. Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments (RWACP) in eastern Uganda Project information table

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Title** | **Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments in Eastern Uganda** | | | |
|  |  |  | Funding (Euro) | Funding realized till TE (USD) |
| UNDP Project ID: | 00126785 | ADA financing | 1,900,000 | 2,100,978.74 |
| Country: | Uganda | UNDP | 211,110 | 00 |
| Region: | Africa | Total co-financing: | * 211,110 | 00 |
| Executing Agency: | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Total for the Project: | **2,111,110** | 2,100,978.74 |
| Other Partners  involved: | Ministry of Water and Environment, District Local Government of Butaleja, Budaka, Kibuku, Namutumba and Kaliro districts. | Project Start date (ProDoc Signature) | February 2021 |  |
|  |  | (Planned  closing date) | December 2024 |  |

# 1.1 Introduction and a brief description of the project

The project aimed at supporting the Government of Uganda to restore wetlands and associated catchments in selected districts of Uganda, by promoting catchment-based integrated, equitable, and sustainable management of wetlands resources while improving the livelihood of wetland-dependent communities. The project is funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). The project is intended to complement the GCF-funded wetland restoration project, whose goal is to “restore and sustainably manage wetlands and associated catchments and support target communities in wetlands areas of Uganda to reduce the risk of climate change and build resilient communities and ecosystems.”

The evaluation of the ADA-funded project is restricted to 5 districts, namely Budaka, Butaleja, Kariro, Kibuku, and Namutumba. These five districts overlap with the GCF-supported wetland restoration project that is being implemented in 12 districts within Mpologoma catchment, in Kyoga Water Management Zone in Eastern Uganda. The wetlands where the interventions were implemented on the ground are different for the two projects. The implementation period of the project was three years. The official start date of the project was Feb 2021 but actual implementation of the project started much later in August 2021, with the inception meeting of the project. The planned operational closure of the project was 31 August 2024 while the financial closure of the project is February 2025, six months after operational closure. The project is being implemented by UNDP following the ‘Direct Implementation Modality’.

As per the monitoring and evaluation requirements, as provided in the project design (Project Document), UNDP CO has retained the services of a team of two independent evaluators (one international consultant and one national consultant) to carry out Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the project. TE of the project has been carried out by the evaluation team as per the ToR and as per the guidelines of ADA/UNDP.

The Main objectives of the evaluation was to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impacts and sustainability of the Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchment Project and its partners. The methodology used comprised of documentary review of the project-related documents and field mission (including interviews with selected stakeholders of the project). This report provides the findings of the TE, a summary of which is given in this chapter of the report.

Table 2 below provides the Project Objectives and the summary of different Outputs and the planned outcomes of the project. The Table also provides the indicators that were monitored to verify the achievement of the planned Objectives of the project along with the status at TE. The achievements shown in Table 2 indicate that the demarcation of wetlands and departure by farmers has reduced draining and cultivated area hence reducing further degradation of wetlands. Furthermore, there is evidence of natural restoration/regeneration of areas that were vacated by farmers. Through awareness creation, locals can distinguish private and public wetlands and activities that are permissible such as aquaculture and capture fishery. Already recovering sites have been attracting many fishermen, providing pasture for livestock and habitat for birds and hippos. Although the provision of alternative livelihoods seems to be limited by the budget, these have acted as an incentive for relocation from wetlands. There were limited interventions in the upper catchment since the investments could only support a limited number of affected farmers.

The interventions made by this project are sustainable through sensitization, additional support to livelihood diversification and innovations in agricultural practices in the 9 catchment areas. The risks towards community re-occupation can further be mitigated through a combination of livelihood enhancement, increased monitoring by NEMA and enforcement of bylaws that govern the use of wetlands.

Table 2. RWACP Results framework at Terminal Evaluation

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EXPECTED OUTPUTS** | **OUTPUT INDICATORS** | **Target by end of Project** | **Status at TE** | **Rating** |
|
| **Project Objective:** | Enhanced resilience of communities and wetland and associated catchment ecosystems in selected Districts of River Mpologoma Catchment | |  |  |
| **Output 1:** | **1.1** Area (Ha) of degraded wetlands restored | 6,705 | Demarcation of 2,416 Ha of degraded wetland restored). | **Moderately Satisfactory.** |
| Degraded Wetlands, natural grasslands and associated catchments restored and or rehabilitated and intact wetlands protected |  | 4500Ha (2,416 Ha) had been measured/mapped by MWE team by Feb 2024; and natural restoration had been initiated as farmers left the wetlands. |
|  | **1.2** Area (Ha) of degraded catchment restored and/or rehabilitated | 1,422 |  | **Satisfactory.** |
|  | 901Ha restored through tree planting trees. So far 250,373 assorted seedlings were planted in the 5 districts. |
|  | Catchments were also rehabilitated by establishing up to 40 deep wells (boreholes) that can be used to produce water for irrigation and household use, thereby reducing pressure on the wetlands. |
|  | **1.3** Number of intact | 5 wetlands | The project is currently protecting 4 wetlands including in Mpologoma in Namutumba District; Magongolo (Busabo S/C) and Hisiiro (Nawanjofu S/C) in Butaleja District; Nandere in Kibuku District;-Nakuwa in Kaliro District | **Satisfactory.** |
|  | wetlands protected | Awareness creation has led to departure and wetlands have naturally recovered flora/fauna |
| **Output 2:** Improved | **2.1(a)** Number of household heads disaggregated by sex and social determinants (age, disability) benefiting from agricultural incomes in the project sites | 33,000 household heads | 9,302 (40%) households benefit from agricultural incomes | **Satisfactory** |
| agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options in the wetland catchment |  | o   600 households were granted livestock |
|  |  | o   20 households received 1,320 hens |
|  |  | o   25 households were granted 250 fishponds |
|  |  | o   15 micro irrigation kits |
|  |  | o   9CSA demos established |
|  | **2.1 (b)** Number of household heads disaggregated by sex and social determinants (age, disability) that are benefiting from alternative livelihoods introduced by the project | 33,000 household heads | 8,490 benefited from alternative livelihoods | **Moderately Satisfactory** |
|  | **2.2** Percentage of women who benefit/have control of livelihood interventions such as water and household incomes in the project sites. | 50% of people involved are women | o   50% of the poultry provided was received by women in the HH | **Satisfactory** |
| o   As of Nov 2024, the percentage of females who are benefiting from the project are about 45%. |
| **Output 3:** |  |  | o The project prepared a strategy and communication plan. | **Moderately Satisfactory**. |
| Knowledge Management and Communication | o MTR and TE were conducted. |
|  | o Awareness through radio talk shows |
|  | o joint field monitoring with stakeholders done. |

**Summary of conclusions**

The project is relevant to the long-term needs of the people of Mpologoma Catchment. At the time of TE, the project had, through awareness creation and sensitizations, convinced 60-70% of wetland users/farmers to relocate from within the demarcated 4,500 hectares. The project had also restored 901 hectares of the upper catchment by planting 250,373 assorted seedlings in the 5 districts and establishing up to 40 deep wells (boreholes) that could be used to produce water for irrigation and household use, thereby reducing pressure on the wetlands. Farmers were trained and provided with alternative livelihood options including in-calf hybrid heifers, goats, poultry, and aqua culture. Four intact wetlands were protected namely Magongolo and Hisiiro in Butaleja district, Nandere in Kibuku district and Mpologoma in Namutumba district. Considering the geographic size and population within the project area, these interventions are considered to be inadequate for the affected population and the entire wetlands extent in these districts. There was a mismatch between project scope and budget during the design. The proposed activities in the project area (5 districts) were quite many to be completed within three years and the allocated budget.

Despite the short timeframe and small budget, the project has made significant contributions towards reduction of wetland degradation, enhanced natural restoration of flora and fauna including increased organisms that inhabitant wetlands such as fisheries. The project has minimized extensive drainage and cultivation of crops in the demarcated areas and this has added land area/storage for water, which implies that these waters can last longer even in times of drought hence improving it availability to people and lives-tock. Although this is the case, there’s still a huge portion of the wetlands that remain un demarcated and unrestored.

The project has not fully cushioned the demarcated areas from threats of re-occupation since only a few (about 3%) affected persons from the catchment communities were assisted with alternative livelihoods. Going by the few incidences that have been noted, there’s a likelihood of re-encroachment into the reclaimed wetlands if no further support is provided to the people who relocated from the wetlands.

**Recommendations**

The project area was bigger and the spread of activities across the districts led to thin spread of the financial resources in the budget. Therefore, ADA and UNDP should fund a successor to complete all planned activities under this project and to scale up livelihood activities in the catchment. It will be important to improve agricultural practices, introduce innovations and increase farmers access to agricultural extension. Alternative livelihoods and adoption of climate smart agricultural practice should be scaled up. Enhancing production in the catchment by improving traditional agriculture and supporting improvement in land use practices e.g. increasing soil fertility, promoting, agro forestry are measures and new sources of livelihoods are measures that can keep farmers away from the wetlands.

The TE recommends demarcation and erection of pillar markers in the remaining parts of the wetlands coupled with awareness campaigns to increase levels of awareness of the importance of wetlands, ownership and methods of restoration. In addition, to safeguard the restored wetlands, buffer zones should be created to check encroachment. The TE suggests that establishing bamboo plantation along the buffer zones can be good for Carbon sequestration and promotion of green enterprises (manufacture of bamboo products, bio fuel, craft making business, pulp and paper etc.) for supporting livelihoods of the communities.

Community-led wetland management plans have been lacking and these are needed. With the support of UNDP, the DLG should spearhead the formation of Parish/village management committees to monitor and control those who may be tempted to revert into areas that have been restored.

The TE also noted that the enforcement of laws regarding the restored wetlands has been inadequate and therefore recommends that NEMA enhances coordination with district natural resources/environmental officers to ensure that re-encroachment doesn’t take place in the demarcated and restored wetland areas.

Gender Imbalances noted in participation, training and access to grants need to be addressed through affirmative action in successor projects, increased investment in innovating traditionally women-led occupations, and enhancing their access to agricultural extension and microfinancing.

As a long-term strategy towards cushioning future interferences with wetland ecosystems, a successor project should invest in youthful generations particularly the ones in school. Apart from awareness creation, demo farms should be established in schools to teach CSAs, soil/water conservation and agroforestry practices in the catchment.

# Introduction

The “Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments Project (RWACP) in Eastern Uganda’ is aimed at supporting the Government of Uganda to restore wetlands and associated catchments by promoting integrated, equitable, and sustainable management of wetlands resources while improving the livelihood of wetland-dependent communities. RWACP project is implemented to complement the GCF/GoU/UNDP funded wetland restoration project which is being implemented in 12 districts within Mpologoma catchment. The goal of the GCF project is to reduce the risk of climate change posed to agricultural-based livelihoods through implementation of actions that restore and sustainably manage wetlands and support target communities that inhabit areas bordering wetlands areas of Uganda. The ADA funded RWACP project is implemented in 5 districts (Budaka, Butaleja, Butebo, Kibuku, and Namutumba) that are associated with higher concentration of land users that double as wetland and upland users.

## *2.1 Purpose of the TE*

The purpose of the final evaluation is to:

* investigate the extent to which the goal of the project has been achieved
* assess the impact and sustainability of the project based on results framework.
* assess the interventions that were implemented to restore the wetlands
* identify the type of ecosystem services that have so far been restored.
* determine the extent to which the interventions that were implemented have reduced vulnerabilities of the catchment
* examine the factors that affect relocation of people from wetlands

Both UNDP and ADA require that TE be conducted at the end of projects to assess the achievements of the objectives and outcomes as specified in the project document. The TE is based on the ODA Guidelines for Programme and Projects Evaluation and followed the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria to assess the relevance, effectiveness, coherence, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the actions and results of the Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments Project.

## *2.2. Objectives*

The Main objectives of the evaluation was to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impacts and sustainability of the Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchment Project and its partners.

Specific objectives

1. Assess which restoration/rehabilitation interventions were implemented and the type of ecosystem services that have so far been restored
2. Examine the impacts of the project on the community.
3. Determine the extent to which the project interventions reduced the vulnerabilities of the catchment
4. Establish how the interventions enhanced the livelihoods of the beneficiaries
5. Assess the stakeholders’ level of participation in various processes, activities and their contributions in adoption of practices that can reduce pressure on wetlands.
6. Provide actionable insights to guide the future direction of the program
7. Demonstrate accountability to beneficiaries, partners, and donors.

## *2.3 The scope of evaluation*

The evaluation focused specifically on the performance of the project over the 3-year period from 2021 to 2024. To determine the performance of the project, the TE focused on the project strategy, its implementation, and the results. Moreover, the assessment looked into the impacts of the interventions and sustainability of the achievements. The TE also looked into:

1. The type/number of activities that have been implemented against the targets under output indicators to determine the variances and level of accomplishment.
2. Types of alternative livelihood interventions that were implemented
3. Evidence of wetlands demarcation and restoration
4. local and national level stakeholders, their level of participation and r actual contributions towards implementation of the project
5. Alternative livelihood and innovations that were adopted by affected/beneficiaries
6. Achievements made by the project at both output and project goal level.
7. The 5 districts (figure 1) and 10 sub counties namely, Bulange and Bugobi sub counties and Bugobi town council in Namutumba district, Nandere sub county in Kibuku district, Nansanga and Lyama sub counties in Budaka district, Nawanjofu and Busaba sub counties in Butaleja district and finally Namwiwa and Kisinga sub counties in Kaliro district where the project was implemented.

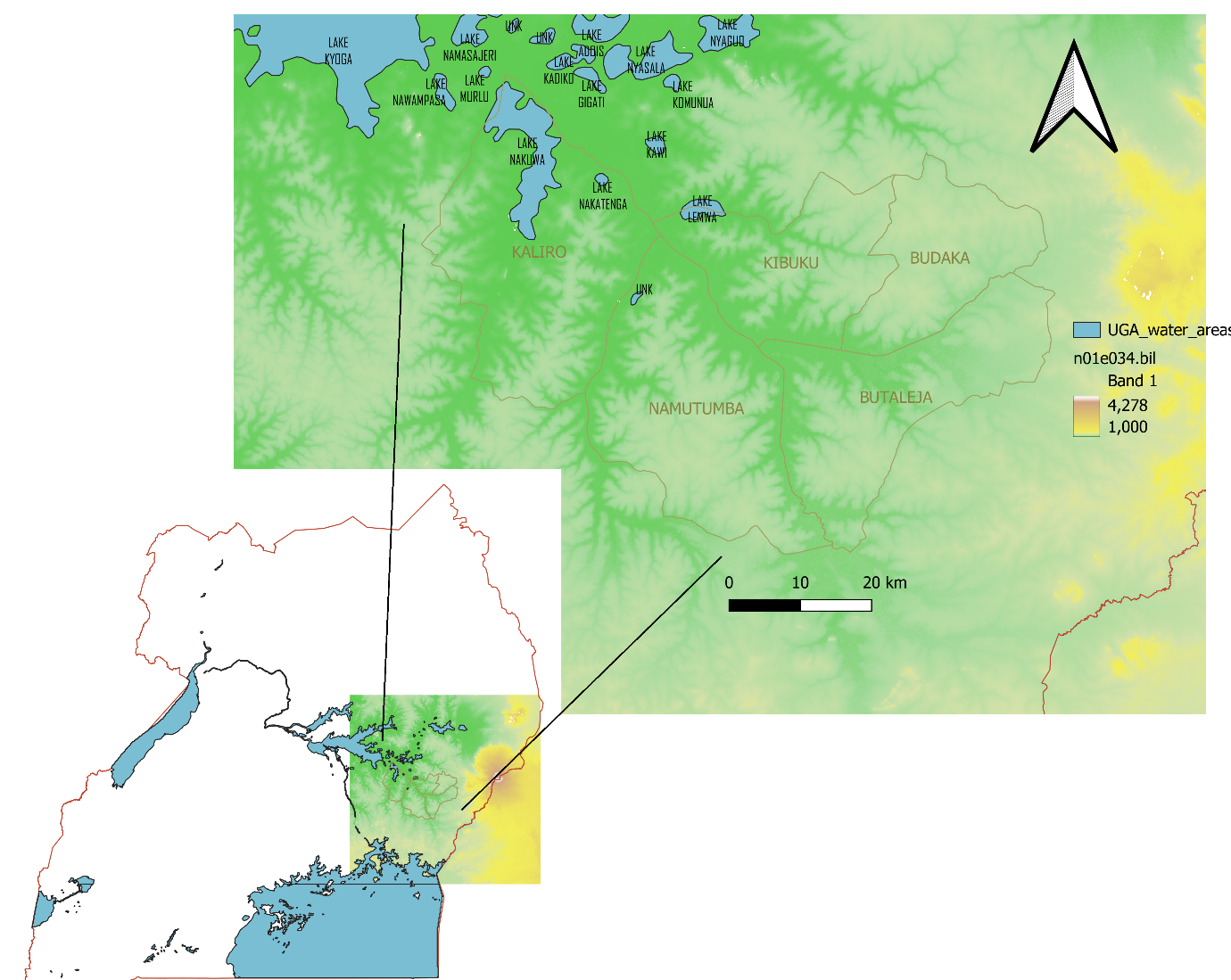


Figure 1. Five districts of Budaka, Butaleja, Kaliro, Kibuku and Namutumba in eastern Uganda where the Restoration of wetlands and associated catchments project was implements

## *2.4 Quality standards*

The evaluation team designed and conducted this evaluation in accordance with standards and Principles of Good evaluation as stipulated in the guidelines set out in the Evaluation Policy of the Austrian Development Cooperation[[1]](#footnote-1). ADA’s principles are reflected in the evaluation questions which are available in the questionnaire (Annex 3). During consultations, there were no violations or harm subjected to the participants of the evaluation. The questionnaires were printed on paper and administered to individuals and groups, and thereafter, the results were processed and presented anonymously.

# 3. Background and Context Analysis

In Uganda, over 80% of the people who border wetlands and associated catchments derive their food security needs, income and employment from resources that are found in wetlands. Of the total population of 41.5 million Ugandans, (UBOS, 2020), it is estimated that wetlands directly provide about 320,000 jobs and subsistence employment to over 2.4million people. The activities that create employment range from harvesting papyrus for roofing houses, basket making sand harvesting for construction, capture fisheries and water for home use and micro irrigation of small gardens.

The degradation of the wetlands and associated catchments have been attributed to increasing human activities which are triggered by the increasing needs of the population. In addition, the occurrence of extreme weather events such as drought increase human invasion of wetlands as a coping mechanism, hence making the wetlands to become vulnerable to overexploitation. and degradation. This has led to changes in quantity and quality of water supply and alteration of other ecologically important attributes of the wetlands. The gradual loss of the wetlands if not checked could have negative impacts on climate.

This TE focuses on interventions that were implemented by RWACP in support of the Government of Uganda in restoring Mpologoma wetlands and associated catchments, which falls in the jurisdiction of Kyoga Water Management Zone (KWMZ). The project was implemented in Eastern Uganda (Butaleja, Budaka, Kibuku, Namutumba and Kaliro districts) within the Kyoga Water Management Zone whose population is estimated to be over 1.1 m people (UBOS, 2014) and on land area of over 2,961.6 square kilometers. The five districts were prioritized due to their enormous level of degradation and the fact that they share boundaries with Mpologoma wetland (Mpologoma Catchment Management Plan, 2018). The direct beneficiaries of the project are 66,000 heads of households whereas an estimated 1.1 million people are indirect beneficiaries. The project also targeted, 30% of women who depend on subsistence agriculture and wetlands for their livelihoods.

## *3.1 Project purpose, geographic boundaries, management and budget*

The project interventions were mainly focused on restoration of degraded wetlands and degraded catchment areas, protection of intact wetlands, increasing agricultural incomes through use of improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options within the upper catchment areas. Therefore, the project interventions sought to reduce pressures on wetlands, restore wetlands and their ecosystem services. These actions were guided by the Ramsar Convention on Wetland framework which promotes the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and the 2019 Uganda Catchment Management Planning Guidelines.

The total cost of the project amounted to 2,111,110 Euro. ADA granted 1.9 million Euro while UNDP contributed 211,110 Euro. UNDP was responsible for the oversight and quality assurance of project implementation and reporting on all financial resources transferred to its account.

Table 3. Breakdown of RWAC project funds by output

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Output** | **Total (Euro)** |
| 1. Degraded Wetlands, natural grasslands and associated catchments restored and or rehabilitated and intact wetlands protected | 809,279 |
| 2. Improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options in the wetland and associated catchment areas | 838,960 |
| 3. Knowledge Management and Communication | 226,953 |
| 4. Project Management | 235,918 |
| **Total (Euro)** | **2,111,110** |

## *3.2 Key stakeholders involved in the design and implementation of the project*

The project was implemented following UNDP’s policies and procedures in line with the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between UNDP and the Government of Uganda, and the Country Programme. The bulk (95%) of the financing for the project was funded by the Austrian Government through the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) whereas 5% of the funds was a contribution from UNDP. Being the key implementing partner, UNDP partnered with the Ministry of Local Government, District Local Governments (Budaka, Kaliro, Namutumba, Butaleja and Kibuku), the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) the Environmental Conservation Trust (ECOTRUST) of Uganda and BRAC.

## *3.3 Theory of change and/or expected results*

The Theory of Change was built on the understanding that if wetlands are protected from encroachment; and sustainable land management practices promoted in the catchments; creating economically viable alternative agro-based livelihood options for the affected communities, then, the wetlands ability to store and filter water would be increased, enabling communities to utilize the same water for production all year round in micro irrigation schemes and aquaculture enterprises and improved access to cleaner water for domestic use and sanitation.

The project therefore had two synergistic outputs. Output 1 sought to build the foundation for the delivery of output 2. Under output 1, the project activities focused on strengthening the resilience of the wetlands and their associated catchment areas to maximize their ecosystem benefits to the communities. The actions included demarcating and physically restoring wetlands and catchments and, implementing catchment management plans that ensure sustainable land and water management of these ecosystems. This would result into healthier wetlands and associated catchments that are resilient to climate risks.

Under output 2, the project activities would increase agricultural productivity, build resilience to climate change and enhance sustainable development through appropriate agricultural practices across the value chains of selected enterprises. This would be achieved by strengthening existing agricultural livelihoods, introducing climate-resilient practices and sustainable land management, as well as introducing new opportunities for livelihoods that use sustainably managed wetlands. In addition, climate smart agriculture conservation agriculture, crop diversification and new sources of livelihood would be introduced to divert people’s attention from wetlands, hence preventing further degradation of wetland ecosystems.

## *3.4 Project implementation status*

The project implementation has been going on since August 2021 and has made notable strides towards attainment of its objectives. The period starting from inception through TE phase (Dec 2024) indicates that:

Under output 1, which targeted degraded wetlands, natural grasslands and restoration of associated catchments and protection of intact wetlands, the project demarcated 118 km (2,416 hectares) out of the targeted 163km of wetlands in 4 districts. After the demarcation and pillars were put to mark the boundaries of public wetlands, this intervention made farmers to recognize that there are public lands. Consequently, farmers abandoned cultivation of rice and sugar cane. This has resulted to natural restoration of 2,416 ha in 4 out of 5 districts of the ADA wetlands project. These areas are currently covered with vegetation and water. The project had also made some progress by planting 250,373 trees in the farms bordering the wetlands i.e. uplands/catchment areas.

Under output 2 “improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options in the wetland catchment”, achievement was made in creating 3 marketing stalls to provide selling outlets for farmer’s farm produce. There were interventions for increasing farm incomes through use of micro irrigation systems, establishment of fishponds and stocking with fingerlings, acquisition and delivery of dairy animals and poultry to support farmers. Market stalls were also built to provide selling outlets for farm produce.

At the time of TE, most targets that were set to support livelihoods were met. This included introduction of alternative livelihoods (for example, delivery of in-calf heifers), income generating activities and adoption of climate-resilient agriculture practices.

Under Output 3, the project prepared a strategy and communication plan but it was partially implemented by the time of TE was being conducted.

After MTR was conducted in December 2023, a lot of progress was made in the delivery of the project. A total of 2,416 hectares of wetlands was measured and mapped out. An additional 45 kilometers was demarcated. In Namutumba and Budaka and natural restoration has been taking place after people left the wetlands. A total of 901 hectares of land in the five districts was restored through planting of 250,373 assorted tree seedlings. In order to reduce pressure on wetlands, 40 deep well (boreholes) were drilled to provide water for household use and micro-irrigation.

Because of quarantine restrictions on movement of animals, the project had initially faced challenges in moving livestock from source districts in Western Uganda. After quarantine was lifted, 256 in-calf heifers were delivered. Farmers were also supported with 344 goats, 1,320 chicken and 10 fishponds. In addition, each district received 2 irrigation kits.

# 4. Evaluation Design and Approach

## *4.1 Methodological Approach*

In line with the overall goal and objectives, this terminal evaluation exercise followed the ADA’s Guidelines for Program and Project Evaluations and adopted the OECD DAC norms and standards as well as ethical guidelines for evaluation.

The TE is structured in accordance to the ADA guidelines for Programme and Project evaluation 2020 and was implemented as follows:

1. Kick-off and clarification meeting
2. Developing the evaluation matrix
3. Inception report
4. Data collection and analysis
5. Findings, conclusions and recommendations
6. The evaluation report.

The TE is based on the log frame matrix of the project document and was carried out in accordance with the target indicators of the expected outputs.

Preparatory activities

After being recruited, the evaluation team was provided with project documents and other literature concerned with the project. These were reviewed to inform the inception report. A virtual kick-off meeting with UNDP took place on 29th October to demonstrate understanding of the evaluation and to agree with the methodology and evaluation tools. The team also shared the field itinerary and agreed on logistical arrangements to be made at the time of consultations.

An evaluation matrix has been developed (Table 4). The matrix is a planning tool, which helped to ensure that the evaluation would be able to address and answer all evaluation questions in a sufficiently robust manner. While developing the matrix, the evaluation questions provided in the ToRs have been carefully reviewed and adapted. A mixed method approach was used to collect data for this evaluation exercise. The approaches and steps in data collection entailed documentary review, data collection, data sources and triangulation and analysis of information based on a set of criteria and ethical considerations. The detailed approaches are followed are:

Table 4. Evaluation Criteria and Relevant Evaluation Questions

|  | **Evaluation questions** | **Indicator** | **Sources** | **Data collection method** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Criterion |  |  |  |
|  | **Relevance** |  |  |  |
| i) | To what extent were project objectives consistent with GoU’s /priorities pertaining environmental sustainability and agricultural development as outlined in the Mpologoma Catchment Management Plan, including sustainable development goals? | * Consistency of project actions/interventions versus GoU objectives/priorities | * National policy documents * NDPIII, Environment Policy and Law, Wetlands Act, Climate Change Act 2021, NDC2021 * MWE * MAIF * UNDP | * Reviewing documents * Interviews |
| ii) | How relevant and appropriate was the project design and implementation in strengthening the resilience of the wetlands and the associated catchment areas. | * Nexus between project design priorities versus inputs delivered | * National policy documents * NDPIII, Environment Policy and Law, Wetlands Act, Climate Change Act 2021, NDC2021 | * Review of documents * Field interviews with beneficiaries * Field observations |
| iii) | To what extent did the project interventions address the specific needs and priorities of the targeted communities in the wetland areas? | * Attitude towards the project * Level of participation by beneficiaries | * District development plans * Catchment management plans * DLG departments * Beneficiaries | * Review of documents * Field interviews with beneficiaries * Field observations * Reviewing reports |
|  | **Coherence** |  |  |  |
|  | To what extent are the interventions compatible with both national and local government policies and interventions on conservation of wetlands? | * Compatibility of interventions with country, sector, and local policies | * National policy documents * Sector policy documents * Field observations | * Policy documents * Field observations |
|  | To what extent does the interventions adhere with international policies on management of wetlands? | * International policies on wetland management addressed by RWACP project | * International policies * National/regional/local policy documents | * International policies * National and regional/local policies |
|  | **Effectiveness:** |  |  |  |
| i) | To what extent did the project achieve its objectives and improve the livelihood of beneficiaries? | * 6,705 ha of degraded wetlands restored * 1422 ha of degraded catchment restored and/or rehabilitated * 5 intact wetlands protected * 33,000 household heads disaggregated by sex and social determinants (age, disability) benefiting from agricultural incomes in the project sites * 33,000 household heads disaggregated by sex and social determinants (age, disability) that are benefiting from alternative livelihoods introduced by the project * 50% women benefit / have control of livelihood interventions such as water and household incomes in the project sites. | * Annual Sector Performance Reports * Project reports * Project progress reports * Project beneficiaries | * Review of records, * Secondary data and documents * Field interviews * Key Informants * Focus discussions |
| ii) | Did the project equally benefit both women and men, and how did it specifically benefit vulnerable groups? | * At least 50% of project beneficiaries that are women | * Project reports * Project progress reports * Beneficiaries * Project Implementers | * Field interviews * Field observations * Key Informants * Focus discussions |
| iii) | To what extent were cross-cutting issues such as gender and human rights mainstreamed into the project? | * Aspects of human rights that were addressed * proportion of men and women participating and benefiting from the project | Project reports  Project progress reports  Project beneficiaries | * Analysis of reports/documents * Field interviews |

### *4.1.1. Documentary review*

The consultant reviewed documents (see annex) that allowed the assessment of the performance of the RWACP project. The purpose of the document review was to gain full understanding of the project from formulation to implementation and provide insight into the reported outputs of the project as well as the challenges faced, how they could have affected the progress towards intended outcomes, and how and how the challenges were addressed.

### *4.1.2 Onsite visits and Observation*

In consultation with the project management unit as well as the district and sub county staff, several sites were identified and visited for consultations. The purpose of this exercise was to sample some areas where project implementation had taken place and where activities had been accomplished and alternative livelihoods adopted by the local communities. Through field observations the evaluators verified the status of investment of resources in various interventions, such as demarcations pillar markers that were erected to define boundaries between community and public land and evidence of farmers’ departure from demarcated wetlands and any signs of human activities after demarcation of wetlands. The team also interacted with the recipients of livestock (in calf-heifers, goats, poultry), solar powered irrigation pumps, and persons bordering the demarcated wetlands.

GIS coordinates were taken in all sites that the team visited. In addition, photos were taken to complement evidence and narratives of project interventions. During the interactions, the communities were interviewed concerning the project interventions.

### *4.1.3 Interviews*

This terminal evaluation was a highly consultative exercise with wider involvement of stakeholders particularly the project beneficiaries, implementing partners and district local administrative authorities.

The assessment included affected persons bordering the demarcated sections of the wetlands, groups and individuals who received support for alternative livelihoods.

Project beneficiaries/ affected people were interviewed, and their information collaborated that of project technical officers from district local government, sub-county officer, MAWE and UNDP project implementing officers.

## *4.2 Data Collection and Analysis Tools*

The TE team opted for purposive sampling method in order to access information rich stakeholders (individuals and groups) who could provide the most informative data in a timely manner. Informants included officers form DLG, project implementers, affected persons and beneficiaries of various project interventions.

During the assessment, data and information were gathered through a mix of methods and from diverse sources in order to triangulate and verify their reliability. The information was collected from individual and groups through structured interview guides. Unstructured interviews were also used to guide rapid interviews at field with affected people who were found engaging in various activities (e.g. fishing, grazing livestock and farming activities in the area) along demarcated wetlands. Field data collection was enriched with onsite visit and observation to confirm that demarcation had been done and pillars erected to mark the boundaries and that natural regeneration of wetlands was taking place after people had vacated.

Other interventions that were scrutinized through observation are trees planted, livelihood kits that farmers had received e.g. fishponds, in calf heifers and poultry. Photography enhanced the capture of evidence of the status of economic activities taking place within /outside the demarcated areas of the wetlands, condition of the restored land, vegetation, and water levels beyond the demarcation/pillar markers to confirm the success of the interventions and types of livelihood grants that were in the hands of the beneficiaries.

Focus group interviews with communities in the upper catchment were conducted with people who had received boreholes, livestock and

* Interviews with project implementers (UNDP/District local government)
* Interviews with ministries

## *4.2.1. Analysis of Information and data*

The processes of analyzing information were guided by the themes emerging from the evaluation criterion, namely relevance, effectiveness, coherence, efficiency, sustainability and impacts. Data from different sources was triangulated and rated on a six point (Table 4) to assess the overall outcome on each evaluation criteria.

Table 5. Performance Rating Matrix

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Description** |
| Highly satisfactory (HS): | There were no shortcomings and quality of implementation / execution exceeded expectations. |
| Satisfactory (S): | There were no or minor shortcomings and quality of implementation / execution meet expectations. |
| Moderately Satisfactory (MS): | There were some shortcomings and quality of implementation / execution more or less meets expectations. |
| Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): | There were significant shortcomings and quality of implementation / execution somewhat lower than expected. |
| Unsatisfactory (U): | There were major shortcomings and quality of implementation / execution substantially lower than expected. |
| Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): | There were severe shortcomings in the quality of implementation / execution. |
| Unable to Assess (UA): | The available information does not allow an assessment of the quality of implementation / execution. |

Therefore, evaluation questions (EQ) aided data/information synthesis as follows:

The questions for relevance sought to establish whether the intervention was doing the right thing by responding to the country priorities of the wetlands. The analysis was carried out through review of documents and was supplemented by interviews with PMU/UNDP, MAWE, District local governments and affected communities.

Effectiveness assesses the extent to which the intervention achieved or is expected to achieve its objectives. This involved taking into account of the relative importance of the objectives or results.

Analysis of coherence assessed how well the interventions fitted with the logical framework, project formulation, monitoring and evaluation, and coordination mechanism. The TE verified the complementarity and synergy of activities, results and objectives of the project.

The TE analyzed efficiency by looking at how well the resources (human and financial) were utilized and the extent to which the project interventions were delivered with available resources to deliver results in an economic and timely manner. In respect to this, project documents were analyzed to determine technical and financial execution of the project during the 3 years of implementation, status of achievement of results and objectives.

In regard to the analysis of the outcomes/impacts, the project assessed which interventions had generated or was expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended or unintended effects. This was measured through review of documents, meetings and interviews with beneficiaries, district technical officers and project implementers.

Sustainability was analyzed by evaluating the extent to which the net benefits of the interventions continue or are likely to continue after the end of the project and the potential risks (economic, social, environmental, and institutional capacities) towards sustainability. Besides that, the TE analyzed the sustainability of synergies that were created through partnerships.

The TE analyzed data on gender inclusivity in project design, participation in awareness processes and access to various project inputs such as alternative livelihood kits. It also analyzed how the demarcation and relocation from the wetlands had affected both male and females in the project areas.

## 4.3 Limitations, Risks and Mitigations Measures

Two NGOs, BRAC and EcoTrust were initially involved in the implementation of the project and indeed were assigned to implement a wetlands system PES model. BRAC started on the sensitization work in some districts while EcoTrust developed a PES model based on tree and forest carbon rather than on wetland ecosystem services. Subsequently, the services of the two NGOs were discontinued by UNDP.

# 5. Project Description

## *5.1 Development Context*

Wetlands made up about 8.9% of Uganda’s land area in 2020[[2]](#footnote-2), from 10.9% in 2014. Wetlands ecosystems are valuable in providing numerous goods and services for the well-being of the people. These include regulatory services such as regulating water flow, groundwater recharge, storing and purifying water, and being important sources of fresh water, fish and craft materials. Wetlands contribute to the economy of Uganda by purifying domestic and industrial wastes and effluents, thereby maintaining the quality of urban water supplies[[3]](#footnote-3).

Wetlands are protected by Law according to the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and the National Environment Act 2019[[4]](#footnote-4). Wetlands in Uganda are the responsibility of the Wetlands Department in the Ministry of Water and Environment. To effectively manage water resources including wetlands, the country was demarcated into water management zones, namely the Victoria Management Zone in the south and western parts of the country, Kyoga Water Management Zone in the eastern part of the country, the Upper Nile in the northern part of the country and Albert in western parts of the country. Catchment management plans have been developed within each of the Water Management Zone.

Despite having a conducive policy, legal and regulatory framework, degradation of wetlands has continued across the country. There has been widespread draining and encroachment of wetlands of national interest in many parts of the country. Wetlands are either drained for settlement, industrial activity, or for largescale or small-scale agriculture. Cultivation in wetlands has been driven by an increasing population in the region coupled with declining yields for the other crops that farmers grow in the region. Paddy rice is the major crop cultivated in wetlands. This project was implemented in the Mpologoma wetland system, which has widespread cultivation of paddy rice in the wetlands. The Mpologoma Catchment lies within the Kyoga Water Management Zone (WMZ) of Uganda

RWACP project is linked to two outputs of the UNDP Strategic Plan, namely: Output 1.3 -solutions developed at national and sub-national levels for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste. Output 1.4: is on scaled up action on climate change adaptation and mitigation across sectors which is funded and implemented.

Implementation of this project helps the country to move towards meetings in Nationally determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement of reducing GHG emissions by 34Mt by 2030. Ecosystem resilience a priority adaptation action in Uganda’s 2022 NDC, with a sub action on wetlands, peatlands riverbanks and lakeshores targeting wetland restoration to about 12% of the country’s land area by 2030 and 4100km of wetland boundaries demarcated.

## *5.2 Problems that the Project Sought to Address*

Problems the project sought to address were:

* Widespread draining and cultivation of crops in major wetland systems leading to wetland degradation
* Limited livelihood options and low crop yields coming from unsustainable farming practices
* Poor knowledge of the link between crop yields and the health of the wetlands. Local communities were not fully aware of the implications of wetland drainage to availability of water for their other activities. They were also not aware that wetlands are public and not part of land they owned. Local communities were not aware of sustainable activities such as aqua culture that are permitted in wetlands or in buffers.

## *5.3 Project Description and Strategy*

The design of this project was mirrored on the GCF/UNDP project in the same region entitled Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda. The GCP project is under implementation from 2018 to 2026 with 2 components, namely Component 1: restoration and management of wetland hydrology and associated catchments; and Component 2: improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options in the wetland catchments. The project covers 10 districts in the Mpologoma catchment (namely Pallisa, Kibuku, Bukedea, Namutumba, Butaleja, Budaka, Tororo, Kaliro, Ngora & Mbale) and 10 districts in the Rwizi catchment in Western Uganda (Kabale, Kisoro, Kanungu, Rukungiri, Greater Bushenyi and Ntungamo). Key outputs of the project including i) restoration and management of wetland hydrology and associated catchments; ii) improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihoods in wetland catchments. and iii) strengthening access to climate and early warning information to farmers and other target communities.

This project was built upon the findings of a feasibility study carried out to inform the design of the GCF/GoU/UNDP project which identified underlying barriers that formed the basis for the theory of change of that project. The study highlighted that the exact vulnerability of key agro-ecological and hydrological systems of the wetlands is only partially known and not adequately addressed by the various development interventions in the project zone; that the extent to which smallholders receive impactful agricultural advice from extension workers affects the extent to which new techniques and adaptation practices are understood and adopted; and that limited climate risk information hampers decision makers’ ability to make informed policy changes. It was therefore assumed that if these are addressed, then wetlands would be restored sustainably, and communities would enjoy both goods and services of the wetlands thereafter.

This project was based on the findings of that GCF project feasibility study and the line of thinking developed. It was hoped that restored wetlands and reforested catchments will improve the capacity of the ecosystem to regulate extreme weather occurrences such as floods and drought, by reducing the impacts of flash floods through absorbing the excess water better. In addition, the restoration will allow underground aquifer recharge that will make water available for harvesting and use in the catchments, supporting production processes that are water dependent like aquaculture and irrigation schemes. The proposed interventions will also reduce the effects of droughts and desiccation by improving the retention of water in the wetlands and its catchment area, and by recharging ground water.

A restored and improved ecosystem is insufficient on its own to address the impacts of climate change on the people living and dependent on the wetlands for their livelihoods. Therefore, the project shall promote crop diversification, conservation agriculture techniques, agroforestry/ tree growing with emphasis on indigenous trees and training of farmers in best practices for climate resilient farming. Improvement of value chains, improvement of post-harvest technologies, access to markets for agro-based products, and agri-based income generating activities (e.g. goat rearing, raising chickens, bee keeping, etc.) will be promoted.

In addition, diversification of income sources through alternative livelihoods in the form of employment and entrepreneurship training will help the vulnerable target population to reduce reliance on agriculture for their livelihood and food security. Given that the project will work with groups of the population, the project will facilitate strengthening of the groups that are existing in the target area, encourage them to recruit more members both men and women as well as build their capacity to work together. In order to ensure sustainability and gender equality, women self-help groups will be set up or strengthened, other vulnerable groups such as elderly, widows, widowers, youth, people living with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDs will be targeted and supported to engage through provision of small grants for investment. In view of existing challenges and barriers these vulnerable groups were facing (e.g. in terms of potential cultural/ social discrimination, lack of capacities, resources etc., participatory rural appraisals methodologies were used in identifying the vulnerable groups and their real needs and deliberate efforts made to address them through specific tailored capacity building initiatives and investments.

## *5.4 Implementation Arrangements*

The project was implemented by a project Management Unit based at the Ministry of Water and Environment Eastern Uganda regional office in Mbale city. The steering committee set up for the GCF project comprising of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water and Environment, UNDP country representative.

## *5.5 Key Partners & Stakeholders*

Key project partners include the Ministry of Water and Environment (Directorate of Water Resources Management and Directorate of Environmental Affairs), the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Ministry of Local Government, district local governments of Budaka, Butaleja, Kaliro, Kibuku and Namutumba districts, National Water and Sewerage Corporation,

# 6. Findings

## *6.1 Project design and formulation*

Implementation of the Restoration of wetlands and associated catchment in eastern Uganda complements the Green Climate Fund/UNDP/Government of Uganda supported project, entitled “*Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda*[[5]](#footnote-5)” implemented in the Mpologoma catchment, but covering a wider number of districts.

Other projects with similar objectives include the Enhancing resilience of communities to climate change through catchment-based integrated management of water and related resources in Uganda, implemented in the Awoja, Aswa and Maziba catchments[[6]](#footnote-6) in the 2016 to 2020 period with financing from the Adaptation Fund.

This project sought to support the Government of Uganda to restore wetlands and associated catchments by promoting catchment based integrated, equitable and sustainable management of water and related resources. The project embarked on restoration and sustainable management of wetlands and supported target communities in wetland areas and their catchments to have alternative livelihood options that do not compromise the health of wetlands. The project Theory of Change (ToC) was based on the understanding that wetlands are protected from encroachment; those that are degraded are restored and sustainable land management practices promoted in the catchments; creating economically viable alternative agro-based livelihood options for the affected communities, then, the wetlands ability to provide ecosystem services such as storage and filtration water will be increased, enabling communities to utilize the this water for production all year round in micro irrigation schemes and aquaculture enterprises, improve access to cleaner water for domestic use and sanitation services; and better adapt better to the impacts of climate change.

This project set out to achieve three outputs namely; Output 1: Degraded Wetlands, natural grasslands and associated catchments restored and rehabilitated and intact wetlands protected, Output 2: Improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options in the wetland catchment and Output 3: Knowledge Management and Communication

The project set out to demarcate and physically restore wetlands and wider catchments, formulating and implementing catchment management plans to ensure sustainable water and land management in these ecosystems. The objective of these interventions was ensure healthy wetlands and catchments to enhance resilience to climate risks as well as other outcomes. These outcomes relate to the specific services that a restored and a sustainably managed wetland ecosystem can provide to strengthen climate resilience of the surrounding communities. These may include strengthened livelihood activities, such as fishing and dry-season farming, water storage and filtration for use by households, livestock and irrigation or crop production, and protection against floods, storms and droughts. The idea was that strengthened livelihoods will contribute to increasing sources of income (and thus increased income generation) and diversification such that income is not susceptible to degrading wetlands and climatic changes.

## 6.2 Project implementation

This project was implemented through Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), with UNDP working directly with the District Local Governments (DLG) of Kaliro, Budaka, Butaleja, Kibuku and Namutumba districts in the five districts.

At inception, the UNDP assigned two NGOs to implement. Environmental Conservation Trust (Ecotrust) was assigned to design a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)-based scheme to incentivize wetland restoration, sustainable land management and reforestation; and climate resilient agricultural practices for at least 12500 direct small holder farm households in the 5 districts. The second was BRAC Uganda which was assigned the responsibility of sensation and rolling out alternative livelihood options. However, these faced challenges forcing UNDP to take back control of project implementation by setting up Project Management Unit located at the regional office of the Ministry of Water and Environment in Mbale. Whereas this move caused a loss of time, it helped the project stay on track.

Implementation of this 3-year project started in February 2021 and end in December 2023, a no – cost extension was granted up to December 31, 2024.

The project inception meeting was held on August 13, 2021 in Kampala. This was five months since the project signing by the partners. The delay in holding the project inception meeting was due to restrictions of movement due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Inception meetings were subsequently held in each of the five districts and in each of the 9 sub counties.

## 6.3 Project results/impact

### *6.3.1 Relevance*

The TE assessed whether the project intervention was doing the right thing by responding to the country priorities of the wetlands. by confirming its relevance to the government policies and strategies and UNDP commitments and the e needs of the people of Mpoologoma The ADA wetland restoration project is complimentary to an earlier GCF- funded wetland restoration project also based in Eastern Uganda and whose goal was to “restore and sustainably manage wetlands and support target communities to reduce the risk of climate change posed to agriculture-based livelihoods.”2 This goal resonates very well with the current ADA project. A key finding of the GCF project has been that 74.1 % (or 120,881 Ha) of wetlands were degraded in Eastern Uganda. Besides, “Uganda is the fourteenth most vulnerable country in the world and the 49th least ready to adapt to climate change...” In practical terms, these effects manifest in the form of high susceptibility to floods and drought, environmental degradation, pollution of water sources, severe food shortages and many other forms of mal-adaptation as communities try to eke out a living in a rapidly changed environment.

The project is aligned to the National Vision 2040, which targets poverty reduction through agricultural interventions and aquaculture for improving local economies; Moreover RWACP restoration efforts has attempted increasing the size of wetlands by recovering areas that are occupied illegally by farmers, these efforts contributes to the [Third National Development Plan 2020-2025](http://www.npa.go.ug/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NDPIII-Finale_Compressed.pdf) . Besides that, RWACP is also aligned with the Nationally Determined Contribution commitment to the Paris Agreement; National Climate Change Policy and Water and Environment Sector Investment Plan 2018-2030. Its mode of implementation is in line with the Parish Development Model [2] and District and National Development Plans [3].

This project helps in the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contributing to

* SDG 1.5 which seeks to build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters;
* SDG 2.4.1 which focuses on ensuring sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality;
* SDG6 indicators 6.1 which seeks to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all;
* SDG 6.3 on improvement of water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally;
* 6.5 implementation integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate;
* SDG 6.6 on protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes);
* SDG8 (Indicators 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation) SDG12 (indicator 12.2 achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources);
* SDG13-strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries);
* SDG 15.1-ensuring the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements) and
* SDG 17.6- enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms.

The project is also in line with the United Nations Sustainable Cooperation Framework (UNSCF) which plans to deliver on three strategic areas: (a) Transformative and inclusive governance; (b) Shared prosperity in a healthy environment); and (c) Human well-being and resilience. This project’s objectives contribute to Strategic Area 3 of the UNSCF.

RWACP also aligns with Article 237 2(b) of Uganda’s 1995 Constitution[[7]](#footnote-7) states that (b) *“the Government or a local government as determined by Parliament by law shall hold in trust for the people and protect natural lakes, rivers, wetlands, forest reserves, game reserves, national parks and any land to be reserved for ecological and touristic purposes for the common good of all citizens”.*

The project supports the national efforts aimed at increasing coverage of wetlands from 10.9% to 12% by 2025 and building national resilience to climate change (National Development Plan III).

Objectives of the project are consistent with articles 53, 54 and 55 of the National Environment Act 2019[[8]](#footnote-8), on riverbank and wetland management:

The five districts where this project was implemented lie within the wider Mpologoma Catchment. Implementation of this project is consistent with the objectives of the Mpologoma Catchment Management Plan[[9]](#footnote-9)., viz Mpologoma Catchment, a dominant catchment in the Kyoga Water Management Zone in Uganda covering 8,989 sq km (7867 sq km of land and 1,1,27 sq km water. The project area covers 32.9% (2,961.6 sq km) of the catchment.

The Mpologoma Catchment Management Plan provides a long-term strategy for the sustainable development and utilization of the water resources in the catchment by the stakeholders in an integrated manner. The objective of CMP is to provide information and shared motivation that will initiate interventions and/or investments, which can be implemented to realize sustainable management and development of water resources within the catchment.

Protection and restoration of wetlands is consistent with the National Climate Change Act 2021[[10]](#footnote-10) and with the country Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement. Priority mitigation action 7 on wetland and peatland management is aimed at increasing national wetland coverage from 8.9% in 2020, to 9.57% in 2025, and approximately 12% by 2030 through the implementation of wetland management practices such as demarcation, gazettement, and restoration of degraded wetlands. The mitigation reduction potential for this measure is expected to account for 0.4 MtCO2e by 2030[[11]](#footnote-11). Wetlands are natural sources of methane; however, drainage causes a spike in methane production increase their contribution to global warming.

### *6.3.2 Coherence*

Coherence is an evaluation criterion that measures how well an intervention fits within a country, sector, or institutions. it also assesses the compatibility of the intervention with local and international policies. It addresses the synergies and interlinkages between the intervention and other interventions carried out by the same institution/government, as well as the consistency of the intervention with the relevant international norms and standards to which both UNDP and government adheres and how these take into account the intervention’s design and implementation. Coherence also considers the consistency of the interventions with other actors’ interventions in the same context.

The project interventions were found to be compatible with the Ramsar convention on conservation of wetlands. The TE found that demarcations had taken place along the Wetlands in Kaliro and Namutumba Districts within the Lake Nakuwa wetland system which is a Ramsar site. Ramsar sites are wetlands that have been designated as having international importance. Uganda is a Party to the Ramsar Convention, an international agreement that promotes the conservation and wise use of wetlands of international importance. In addition to supporting the Sitatunga and the Nile Crocodile, the Nakuwa wetland system and its satellite lakes contain the most diverse cichlid species assemblage and are a haven for a number of non-cichlid species no longer found in the large lakes of Kyoga and Victoria. The system provides refuge to fish taxa that have been reported extinct in the main lakes, thanks to the protection accorded by the aquatic vegetation around the lakes, which prevented the Nile perch from spreading there. The wetland also plays an important role in flood prevention, water purification and groundwater recharge. It is probably one of the remaining pristine wetland areas in Uganda due to its remoteness and sparse population in the immediate catchment,[[12]](#footnote-12)

### *6.3.3 Effectiveness*

This section presents results showing the extent to which interventions achieved the objectives of the project. The overall objective of RWACP was to enhance the resilience of communities and the ecosystems of wetlands and associated catchments in 5 districts of the River Mpologoma Catchment, through implementation of interventions that develop healthy wetlands and those that promote adoption of more resilient and sustainable livelihoods by the people residing in the adjacent areas. The objective was going to be achieved through implementation of 3 output, namely,

1. Restoration, protection and rehabilitation of wetlands and their associated catchment areas to maximize their ecosystem benefits to the communities.
2. Adoption Improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options in the wetlands catchment in order to increase incomes and involve women in livelihood interventions.
3. Output 3: Knowledge management and communication

Under output 1, “Restoration, protection and rehabilitation of wetlands and their associated catchment areas to maximize their ecosystem benefits to the communities” the key activities that were implemented are mobilizing and sensitizing the villages and communities to create awareness, and enhance participation during the demarcation and compliance by exiting and abandoning economic activities from areas delineated as public wetland. The project was supported in mobilization and sensitization by key District CAOs, RDC, DNROs, MWE, Chairpersons of local councils District Production Officers, District Community Development Officers and many others. By the time of the TE, it was noted that awareness creation had influenced farmers to exit from the wetlands. However, the level of compliance varied. Some areas achieved total (100%) compliance. It was estimated that 50-60% of farmers abandoned the wetlands after demarcation. The community was informed about the purpose of restoring wetlands and the need to explore alternative livelihoods; how to promote sustainable use of wetlands and improving the wetlands ability to provide its functions and services. In addition, communities were sensitized about the benefits of wetlands, the laws that govern access and sage of on wetlands and the potential livelihood alternatives that would be provided to those who would be displaced from the wetlands.

Figure 1. A Parish chief addressing the community on demarcation exercise at Namiwa

Training and demonstrations on wetland management was undertaken in five districts to 406 persons including youth (235 males and 141 females). In addition, mobilization of monitoring teams for participatory monitoring of water detention facilities involved 63 people (53 males and 10 females)

Baseline surveys of sites using GIS/RS was completed and have informed site selection. This was followed-up with ground truthing with District Technical Teams, communities and the Local Council Chairpersons of the Villages, Wetland ecologists led in the assessment of wetland boundary and coordinates of points at the boundaries. Demarcation exercises were conducted in a participatory manner including local communities, local leaders from village, parish and sub county levels as well as those from the respective district local governments. Concrete pillars with “wetland” clearly inscribed were erected at intervals on 100 meters between farmers’ fields and the wetland. In all, 118 km out of 163 km (72.4%) of the wetland has been demarcated. The buffer zones i.e. the border between the wetlands and community lands have recovered through natural regeneration of vegetation. It was observed that some pillar markers are partially submerged in water, as water levels in the wetland rise and as wetland vegetation re-emerges. This is an indicator of success towards the goal of the project. A total of 2,416 ha/6705ha of degraded wetland was restored on its own after paddy rice and sugarcane farmers vacated.

Figure 3. Pillar marker indicating wetland boundary

Figure 2. Community members participating in the boundary demarcation exercise

**A person holding a large fish

Description automatically generated**In addition, four intact wetlands are being protected in Mpologoma in Namutumba District, Magongolo (BusaboS/C) and Hisiiro (Nawanjofu S/C) in Butaleja District, Nandere in Kibuku District and Nakuwa in Kaliro District. Within 12 months of abandoning fields, wetland vegetation has shown signs of recovery. Water levels have increased beyond the areas that were under cultivation. From field observations, it was noted that wetlands vegetation is spreading to the restoration areas, including papyrus, including *miwa musirye sirye* that are used for fodder and firewood. There is now more pasture for grazing livestock from the banks of the river, simply because cultivation in no longer being done up to the edge of the water.

Another indicator of wetland recovery is the increased fish stock in the wetlands particularly lung fish. Increased fish stocks have led to an increase in the number of people engaged in fishing for own food and income.

Figure 4. Capture fishing activities taking place in nearly all locations.

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Under output 2, “improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options in the wetland and associated catchment areas promoted”, the project established incentive schemes to organized groups/communities for ultimate restoration and rehabilitation of degraded wetlands and associated catchments. By the time of TE, the project granted 256 cows, 344 goats, 1,320 poultry (50% to women) and 250 fish ponds. For the last two years there were 9,290 (30% women) direct beneficiaries. It is estimated that another 30% indirect beneficiaries benefited through cross learning, gifting from direct beneficiaries e.g. one woman gave turkey to other household to rear, through trading with direct beneficiaries and increased capture fisheries. Therefore, there were 12,077 households that benefited from this intervention.

Figure 5. Beneficiaries of in calf-heifers

****Tree seedlings were offered to local communities and 901 hectares were planted to help sustainably manage landscapes. The tree seedlings were mainly multipurpose and included fruit trees that are expected to boost household incomes. A total of 160,373 trees were planted.

Another approach for alternative livelihoods options through gender responsive on and off-farm business enterprises led to the training of community-based trainers being trained on Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) model, financial literacy and entrepreneurship. The trainees included 17 people (5 women and 12 men)

Figure 6. Hass avocado planting in Kaliro

Efforts to develop abstraction and distribution of water for development of capture fisheries, aquaculture an inventory of baseline for all existing water ponds (stocked, un-stocked, abandoned, etc.) to identify the existing potential to make the abandoned ponds available for new fish farms was conducted in all five project districts. So far 10 fishponds in Busaba sub-county, Butaleja district. were stocked with fingerlings and arrangements are being made on others.

A sprinkler spraying water on a field

Description automatically generated with low confidenceA picture containing text, grass, outdoor, track

Description automatically generatedThe project also promoted resilient agricultural best practices by providing 150 micro irrigation kits which contained solar powered water pump and hose pipes for watering crops. A total of 40 deep wells (boreholes) were drilled to produce water for irrigation and household use, thereby reducing pressure on the wetlands. In addition, 225 Climate Smart Agriculture demos were accomplished and 1,269 persons (748 Male; Female 530) including youth trained.

Figure 7. Solar powered pump in action

In order to promote gender responsive on and off-farm business enterprises, the project financed the construction of 4 markets at community centers where women sell produce from their farms.



Figure 8. Namwiwa Market in Namwiwa sub country, Kaliro district

Figure 9..Beneficiaries of newly built marketing stalls in Nawandangala Community Market

Under output 3 “Knowledge Management and Communication”, aimed at increasing visibility for the project through effective documentation and sharing of project results and lessons learned. This output made achievements by

1. designing a communication and stakeholder engagement strategy which outlines both the strategic communication activities and presents some key communication policy guidelines that should be pursued within the context of the project. The strategy emphasized how the project could achieve optimum communication and engagement with all her stakeholders while at the same time, delivering on the core objective of wetland and ecosystem restoration in Kibuku, Namutumba, Butaleja, Budaka and Kaliro districts. when it comes to implementation of the strategy and the plan, the project didn’t meet the requirements outlined in the plan.
2. Carrying out monitoring of implementation of interventions through involvement of all stakeholders, namely Ministry of Water and Environment, District Local Governments of Butaleja, Budaka, Kibuku, Namutumba and Kaliro districts.
3. Designing and implementing a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework; It was noted that no work was done.
4. Conducting the inaugural project inception workshop and launch in September 2021. Other inception workshops were held with relevant districts and sub-counties. to introduce the project to the communities and creating political awareness about it.
5. Radio talk shows for awareness/sensitization involving RDCs, LC-V and DNROs
6. Conducting Midterm Review of the project. This was conducted towards the end of 2023. Moreover, a Terminal Evaluation of the project was conducted in October-December 2024
7. Conduct Annual Audits for the project. No work was carried out.

### *6.3.4 Efficiency*

The TE analyzed efficiency by looking at the extent to which the intervention delivers or is likely to deliver results in an economic and timely way. It also assesses how well resources (human and financial) were utilized to deliver results. In addition, the TE assessed the coordination arrangements, partnerships and synergies that were created during project implementation, emerging issues and how they were resolved in order to propel the project to conclusion.

An assessment of whether coordination arrangements increased the efficiency of project implementation and reduction of transaction costs found that there were changes in project management in several aspects. First the project design provided for the formation of a Project Management Unit (PMU) headed by a ‘Project Manager’. The Project Manager was to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Project within the constraints laid down by the Board. However, both PMU and the project board were never constituted. Therefore, running the project without advisory board made the project to lose the opportunity to backstop some issues in good time.

With the discontinuation of the services of the ECOTRUST and BRAC, a PMU was formed for the implementation of the project and a project manager along with other staff were hired. Since the formation of the PMU, the project has been implemented on the ground with the support of government officials at the district and sub-county levels, and it made immense progress in implementation of the activities with the support of the Regional Wetland Coordinator and the District Natural Resources Officers (DNROs) who are the focal persons at the DLG.

In regard to whether the project was implemented efficiently ay (time, personnel resources) and at minimum costs, this TE considers the resources that were allocated for wetlands restoration to have been under budgeted, though these were used prudently to reclaim quite a huge area of the wetlands, (though there is still a huge area that is unattended and require similar interventions) that were under cultivation. These meagre resources had huge impacts in terms of awareness creation which triggering compliance of farmers exit from huge chunks of wetlands, financing survey and delineation of wetlands, purchase of pillars and relating works to mark the wetlands. If resources could have been adequate, investment in buffers along reclaimed wetlands could be accomplished.

The resources that were spent on alternative livelihoods and support of improved agricultural practices are considered to have been spent prudently within the livelihood options that have been funded so far. These livelihood interventions didn’t require huge expenses on support staff because the recipients were able to manage on their own with little technical support. However, the TE considers this component to be underfunded considering the size of the catchment and number of affected people who needed support. In fact, the project should consider how it could channel additional resources to support the affected to adapt livelihood activities in the catchment areas as way of mitigating their return to the reclaimed wetlands.

An assessment of how well did UNDP used partnerships (with civil society/private sector/local government/other institutions/ development partners) to deliver project results and to create synergies to avoid duplication and optimize results found that several government partners took lead in the implementation of various project activities based on their comparative advantage. Ministry of Water and Environment was to supervise the daily operations of the project; provide technical guidance took lead in actual implementation of the project within their respective districts. At some point, the DLGs worked directly with BRAC and ECO independently. However, this arrangement was discontinued by UNDP country office in April 2022, due to the slow pace of delivery, lack of performance and results by the two NGOs. Before disengagement with RWACP, the accounts of BRAC and ECOTRUST were audited by Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) and the findings used to take corrective measures for the project efficiency to be improved.

At the project design stage, the role of ECOTRUST was to implement a payment for environmental services (PES)/ ‘carbon credits’ facility for the project. It was envisaged that the PES facility would provide an opportunity for the financing need beyond the project to, firstly sustain the restoration of the catchment areas and secondly to provide an additional source of income to the households within the ‘catchment areas’ However, this arrangement failed because Ecotrust was not able to develop a PES model based on hydrological services, rather they were attempting to use their shamba model based on forest carbon. This was not appropriate for the needs of the project. In addition, their operating costs were quite high and not sustainable. Given that Uganda was yet to develop national guidelines for PES development and implementation, this activity was suspended.

### *6.3.5 Sustainability*

Sustainability is concerned with the extent to which the net benefits of the interventions are likely to continue. This criterion includes an examination of the financial, economic, social, environmental, and institutional capacities of the systems needed to sustain net benefits over time, and involves analyses of resilience, risks and potential trade-offs.

The TE noted that several approaches were incorporated in the design of the project as a means of enhancing sustainability of the project. First, in order to achieve restoration of the wetlands from further degradation due to human activities, the project banked on alternative means of livelihoods (output 2) for farmers to stop cultivation of wetlands. The project support entailed provision of 3 markets livestock (cows and goats), poultry, fish ponds, irrigation kits, climate smart agriculture demos and boreholes. Although the scale of these was small the interventions have somehow persuaded sections of the community to abandon farming activities in the wetlands. Additional interventions will be required to increase coverage of catchment inhabitants and increase livelihood opportunities for potential deviants.

The project has achieved high level of awareness, which led to abandonment of wetland farming by more than 50% of the farmers. Communities were sensitized about climate change and cautioned against draining the wetlands. Marking boundaries enhanced community to understand the extent of their land and ownership of wetlands and access of the resources therein. Besides that, awareness crusaders championed need for alternative livelihoods as a way of reducing pressure on wet lands. Therefore, awareness creation can continue sustaining peoples’ compliance from wetland encroachment.

Although enforcement has been missing as a key governance measure for securing mapped out areas, the project has a chance of partnering with government stakeholders (NEMA and local government) to ensure continued and enhanced compliance monitoring to sustain the interventions. Action against culprits reverting into the demarcated wetlands would not only discourage other potential invaders but also improve protection of wetlands and access to publicly owned natural resources.

The project use of community led approach when mapping and demarcating boundaries that separate wetlands belonging to government and those that belong to communities. This approach has succeeded in gaining the support of the communities neighbouring those wetlands. Enhancing positive relationships through livelihood support will guarantee sustainability of the wetland restoration efforts.

Lack of alternative sources of livelihood could be a major threat to sustainability of achievements made so far. There are a few farmers who never vacated the demarcated wetlands and still cultivate crops there. Besides that, a few people who left the demarcated areas migrated to un-demarcated wetlands to restart their farming activities. Therefore, this TE recommends additional interventions to enhance livelihoods in the catchment areas to mitigate peoples’ movements into the wetlands.

### *6.3.6 Impacts*

This TE evaluated the impacts that the project interventions generated especially those with significant effects. The impacts signify the transformative effects of the interventions and have identified social, environmental and economic effects that were triggered by the interventions of the project. Beyond the immediate results, this criterion seeks to capture the indirect, secondary and potential consequences of the intervention. To capture the impacts, the evaluation posed the following questions

* *Which positive and/or negative effects/impacts can be possibly attributed to the implementation of project?*
* *To what extent has the project contributed/demonstrated verifiable improvements in the restoration of wetland ecosystem?*
* *What evidence shows progress towards reducing degradation and encroachment on wetlands?*
* *How has the project enhanced agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options affected the income levels and resilience of the local communities targeted by the project?*
* *What are the unintended consequences, that emerged from the project's interventions?*

*Positive impacts*

Awareness creation through public meetings and radio talk shows has changed the mindset of the people and this has resulted in acceptance to relocate and cease cultivating the wetlands. It is estimated that awareness creation has contributed significantly to people abandoning cultivation of wetlands. Some key informants pointed that most people were not aware of the borders of their land. Awareness had made 50-70% of the people to stop/vacate the areas beyond the pillar markers demarcating the wetlands after being informed that the land past the pillar markers belonged to the government. Furthermore, the demarcation of the wetland helped to resolve issues revolving on the land ownership in the wetlands. In addition, sale of land on wetlands have stopped after demarcation and people being informed that the land beyond the pillar marker belonged to the government.

There are signs of self-restoration and recovery of areas that were under cultivation. In a period of 2 years, the trees and shrubs which people had cut for firewood in the past have started regenerating in some areas, and other parts of the wetlands are covered with fresh papyrus and grasses which provide pasture for livestock. Sections of the restored wetlands have become overgrown with grass and have already become pastureland for livestock. This implies that during the dry season, these areas will become handy in mitigating shortage of pasture for livestock, hence stabilizing productivity of livestock products.

Figure 10. Grazing livestock in wetlands buffers made possible after demarcation and abandoning cultivation of crops in these areas

After vacating the wetlands, some farmers have adjusted their lives by seeking opportunities elsewhere e.g. by leasing land from big landowners for agriculture in the upper area while others engage in small businesses. There are also those who provide casual labour in neighbouring farms for income. All these activities have the potential for providing alternatives and socioeconomic stability to those who stopped using the wetlands for their livelihoods.

Informants observed that farmers’ invasion of wetlands for rice farming had previously made the fish stocks to dwindle and that the status has been reversed from the time farmers vacated the areas where they used to grow rice. Although the TE wasn’t able to obtain actual data of fish that has been captured, the in**c**reasing fishing activity e.g. in Nandere village, the number of fishermen have increased from 30 to 50 per day during weekdays to 100 per day during weekends. This confirms that the population of fish has been increased significantly. Each fisherman currently earns 15,000-20,000 Ugandan shillings daily. from the sale of fish. With departure of rice farmers who used to spray pesticides to kill birds that ate rice, it was observed that poisoning birds had gone down hence reducing water pollution which was likely to harm the habitat of fish. Therefore, reduction of rice farming has been attributed to increased population of both mud/catfish. The relocation of farmers has also led to increased volumes of water that has reclaimed space in most of the areas that were formerly under cultivation. Water has come back from as far as 3 kilometers from the main river to the demarcation pillars. In some areas, water has even surpassed the pillar markers to an extent of submerging sections of neighbouring farms.

It was noted that recipients of in-calf hybrid heifers have the potential of improving livelihoods, first through production of higher quantities of milk and secondly by using manure from the livestock to improve soil fertility in order to increase crop yields. One of the heifer beneficiaries was already using manure in his banana garden, that was growing vigorously.

*Unintended impacts*

Some people who used to farm in the wetlands have reported that rice and horticulture farming used to be a major source of income and food for their households. The intervention had varied impacts among the affected e.g. one farmer who used to grow rice on 1 acre reported forfeiting 4million Uganda shillings each season after leaving the wetlands, and was currently struggling since he had no occupation

After ceasing farming activities, some of the families that depended on wetlands have reported experiencing food shortages and challenges raising money for educational levies for their children.

A total of 2,416 hectares of wet land that was formerly under cultivation was restored. This implies that hundreds of people were ejected from wetlands farms, which culminated to a loss in terms of food and income. This is likely to have some socioeconomic ramifications to the lives of the people and the local economy, but certain measures can be put in place to mitigate negative consequences.

One village near Lake Nakuwa reported that after people stopped farming in the wetlands, water had increased in the swamps, and these have attracted hippopotamus in the area lead to destruction of food crops on their farms. There are visible signs of water reclaiming its natural levels along the border of the wetland and has flowed past the demarcation pillars.

*Negative attitudes*

* There was a feeling that alternative livelihoods were of low value when compared with returns gained from cultivation of rice in the wetlands. For example, a farmer who receives a goat, after abandoning an acre of land cultivated in the wetland felt the goat does not fully reflect the value of the produce they were getting from the wetland. Therefore, some people felt deprived of their land for cultivation.
* The community had worries on the type of wetlands that would be considered for demarcation and the distance (extent) that would be considered in the process of demarcation. This implies that communities were not aware of the border and the TE therefore recommends massive awareness creation in the rest of the wetlands.
* Delays in delivering alternative livelihoods was one of the reasons that made some farmers to revert to cultivation in the wetlands and refusal by to vacate the wetlands by others.
* The communities had a misconception about ownership of wetlands. They thought that wetlands are an extension of their land. Consequently. the community was afraid of being stopped to cultivate rice and sugar cane in the wetlands since this was their main source of livelihoods.

### *6.3.7 Cross cutting issues*

*Gender*

* There was an imbalance in participation of women in most activities e.g. attending awareness creation meetings, training in CSA and VSLA and erecting pillar markers. It was observed that distribution of livelihood incentives favored majority (70%) of males than female (30%) counterparts. Therefore, few women had received heifers and was attributed to the fact that women don’t own land. Also those women who received livestock seemed to be in a co-ownership arrangement with their spouses. Unequal participation of men and women in the project is attributed to patriarchy which underpin male dominance in access to high value economic opportunities. Correcting the imbalance will require some form of affirmative action that enhance participation of a high proportion of women in economic activities, sensitization of both men and women and uplifting women dominated enterprises/sectors.
* The newly constructed market stalls provide outlet for farm produce and are dominated by women.
* Forty shallow wells (boreholes) were drilled to provide water to the community in the villages. It was estimated that up to 500 people per village have access to water from these boreholes. These boreholes are close to settlements and benefits women more by reducing the distance to water sources by between 0.5km-1km compared to distances covered earlier when collecting water from the river/wetlands. The quality of water is clearer and considered to be better than the one from the river.
* From field observations, majority of the fishponds are owned by men.
* Increased fishing activities in the restored wetlands was associated with men who then sell the capture fish to female traders. Men also provide capture fish for consumption by their families.
* Because women don’t own family land, the majority depended on wetlands for livelihood and this implies that they were among those who need support to revive

*Human rights*

* The project design made an attempt of including all caliber of people including the youth, people with disabilities and those living with HIV/AIDs.
* RWACP agricultural support and livelihood alternatives implies that the project is sensitive to human rights to food and nutrition security.

# *7. Conclusions*

1. The project is relevant to the long term needs of the people of Mpologoma wetlands. Introduction of climate smart agriculture in the catchment, tree planting to address deforestation in the farms and diversification of livelihoods will mitigate the negative impacts of climate change, poverty and food insecurity in the area. Besides that, the project demonstrated that local communities need to improve household incomes through better farming methods, embracing smart climate agriculture e.g. by adopting irrigation to produce high value crops in the dry season. However, these interventions are inadequate for the affected population.
2. The current achievements allude that the project has made contributions towards reduction in wetland degradation, natural restoration of flora and organisms that inhabitants wetlands such as fisheries. The project has minimized extensive drainage and cultivation of crops in the demarcated areas and this has added land area/storage for water, which implies that these waters can last longer even in times of drought hence improving it availability to people and lives-tock. Although this is the case, there’s still a huge portion of the wetlands remain un demarcated. It is estimated that the project achieved about 50% of the planned activities in the prodoc.
3. This project made substantial contribution to building awareness of the need for wetland protection to ensure that these wetlands provide goods and services such as water and flood regulation, biodiversity protection, and fish among others. Local communities are now aware that wetlands are public resources which must be managed by the government of Uganda on behalf of all citizens. The people are also aware that the land they own does not extend into the wetlands or rivers. The communities are also aware of the permitted activities in wetlands and wetland buffers, such as grazing, fishing and aqua culture, harvesting of materials for craft making. Many of the community members were trained in aqua culture. This is a significant contribution of this project because the majority of the people were not aware that wetlands are not owned privately. This is partly because land ownership in the region is majorly customary and not formalized. Many reported that they were cultivating in wetlands because this is something done by their parents and grandparents. And that there had never been efforts by authorities to tell them to stop cultivating crops in wetlands.
4. There was a mismatch between project scope and budget during the design. The proposed activities in the project area (5 districts) were quite many to be completed with the allocated budget. For these activities to be completed, additional budget is required. Therefore, more funding is required to complete the remaining tasks
5. Despite a small budget, the approach taken by the project to work directly with established leadership structures from village, sub county and district levels helped improve effectiveness of the interventions. The RWACP project was implemented under the DIM with a PMU based in Mbale working directly with district staff. Each district has a project focal point who also played the role of district Natural |resources officer (DNRO). The DNRO worked closed with other technical staff at the districts as well as with sub country technical and administrative staff to ensure smooth implementation and monitoring of project activities.

* The project has not fully cushioned the demarcated areas from threats of re-occupation since only a few (about 3%) affected persons from the catchment communities were assisted with alternative livelihoods. Going by the few incidences that have been noted, there’s a likelihood of re-encroachment into the reclaimed wetlands if no further support is provided to the people who relocated from the wetlands.
* Although the project has created a lot of awareness of ownership of wetlands (public/private), implications of draining wetlands and economic activities that are permissible in wetlands e.g. aquaculture, the project area lacks structures for monitoring the restored wetlands

# 8. Recommendations

1. The project area was bigger and the spread of activities across the districts led to thin spread of the financial resources in the budget. Therefore, ADA and UNDP should fund a successor to complete all planned activities under this project and to scale up livelihood activities in the catchment. It will be important to improve agricultural practices, introduce innovations and increase farmers access to agricultural extension. Alternative livelihoods and adoption of climate smart agricultural practice should be scaled up. Enhancing production in the catchment by improving traditional agriculture and supporting improvement in land use practices e.g. increasing soil fertility, promoting, agro forestry are measures and new sources of livelihoods are measures that can keep farmers away from the wetlands.
2. The TE recommends demarcation and erection of pillar markers in the remaining parts of the wetlands coupled with awareness campaigns to increase levels of awareness of the importance of wetlands, ownership and methods of restoration. In addition, to safeguard the restored wetlands, buffer zones should be created to check encroachment. The TE suggests that establishing bamboo plantation along the buffer zones can be good for Carbon sequestration and promotion of green enterprises (manufacture of bamboo products, bio fuel, craft making business, pulp and paper etc.) for supporting livelihoods of the communities.
3. It is estimated that 60-70% of wetlands inhabitants are aware of why wetlands should be reclaimed and restored. Community sensitization work is needed to increase awareness to 100% so that more people can be convinced to vacate wetland cultivation.
4. Gender Imbalances were noted in participation, training and access to grants. Therefore, this evaluation recommends interventions that uplifts women’s economic status and marginalization by male counterparts by targeting female dominated enterprises, building the capacity of women groups, increasing access to agricultural extension through farmer field schools.
5. It is recommended that for a future project of this nature, UNDP and MAWE should constitute a full steering committee/project board. Regular meetings of the steering committee/ project board should be organized.
6. Community led wetland management plans have been lacking and these are needed. DLG should spearhead the formation of Parish/village management committees to monitor and control those who may be tempted to revert into areas that have been restored.
7. The TE also noted that the enforcement of laws regarding the restored wet lands has been missing and therefore recommends that NEMA should take up the matter to ensure that re-encroachment doesn’t take place in the demarcated and restored wetland areas.
8. As a long-term strategy towards cushioning future interferences with wetland ecosystems, a successor project should invest in youthful generations particularly the ones in schools. Apart from awareness creation, demo farms should be established in schools to teach CSAs, soil/water conservation and agroforestry practices in the catchment.

# 9. Annexes

## *Evaluation Feed Back Matrix*

| **Location section and page** | **Comment** | **Response** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| General | Kindly pay attention to page 14 on the achievements made by the MTR in December last year. I am not sure of the exact date of the completion of the MTR, but I know improved breeds of poultry were distributed in December 2023. The section also undermines the work that was put in progress by the MTR period and yet we built on that. If I am not mistaken, the work done in 2024 did not start from scratch but was a continuation of what was started the previous year. Anyways, perhaps @Sarah Mujabi is best placed to advise. | Corrected |
| Cover page | Add UNDP logo too? | UNDP Logo added |
| Table of Contents (pg iii) | Different font: ToC and page numbers. | Font of Table of Contents adjusted to match that in the rest of the report |
| Table 1 (pg 1) | We need to verify these figures |  |
| Table 2 (pg 3) | Consider landscape presentation of table. | Pages with table 2 are now landscape |
| Table 2 | A column mixes status, outputs and targets. Add a column on achievements of the project by TE | Separate columns with Ranking added to table 2 |
| Table 2 (pg 3) | I don’t understand how the acreage was measured. I think this is satisfactory. Remember that natural regeneration is part of our restoration effort. Let’s discuss this. | 2 |
| Summary of conclusions (pg 3) | “The project had also restored 901 hectares of the upper catchment by planting 250,373 assorted seedlings in the 5 districts, and establishing up to 40 deep wells (boreholes) that could be used to produce water for irrigation and household use, thereby reducing pressure on the wetlands. Four intact wetlands were protected” Include alternative livelihoods? | Alternative livelihood options provided by the project have also been mentioned in this section |
| Summary of conclusions (pg 3) | “Four intact wetlands were protected”  Possible to name them? | The four intact wetlands been named |
| Summary of conclusions (pg 3) | Considering the geographic size and population within the project area, these interventions are considered to be inadequate for the affected population and the unrestored wetlands. “Not very clear to me. | Text revised as follows:  ” Considering the geographic size and population within the project area, these interventions are considered to be inadequate for the affected population and the entire wetlands extent in these districts” |
| Summary of conclusions (pg 3) | “prodoc” Use full form of the words? | Replaced with project document |
| Page 3 | …”50% of the planned activities in the prodoc” This contradicts the summary table. | Corrected |
| 3.4 Project implementation status (pg 8) | “The period starting from inception through MTR phase (Dec 2023) indicates that:”  Why up to Dec 2023, why not up to time of TE? | This has been corrected to read Dec 2024 |
| 3.4 Project implementation status (pg 9) | “Under output 1, which targeted degraded wetlands, natural grasslands and restoration of associated catchments and protection of intact wetlands, the project demarcated 117 km (223 hectares) of wetlands in 4 districts. However, no specific activities had been done to protect these wetlands. Demarcation had not been done in one of the districts. The project had also made some progress by planting 90,000 trees in the farms bordering the wetlands i.e. uplands/catchment areas.  Under output 2 “improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options in the wetland catchment”, the only achievement made by then was creation of a single market kiosk to help farmers sell their farm produce. There were no interventions for increasing farm incomes through use of micro irrigation systems and use of high yielding varieties because the project had not initiated climate resilient agriculture practices. This was also attributed to non-achievable targets that had been set”  This section does not seem accurate. Kindly confirm with Sarah M. | Corrections were made as follows: After the demarcation and pillars were put to mark the boundaries of public wetlands, this intervention made farmers to recognize that there are public lands. Consequently, farmers abandoned cultivation of rice and sugar cane. This has resulted to natural restoration of vegetation.  Corrections done as flows:  . There were interventions for increasing farm incomes through use of micro irrigation systems, establishment of fishponds and stocking with fingerlings, acquisition and delivery of dairy animals and poultry to support farmers. Market stalls were also built to provide selling outlets for farm produce. |
| 3.4. Project implementation status (pg 9) | ”250 fish ponds” 10 fishponds | Correction made to read 10 fishponds |
| 3.4 Project implementation status (pg 8-9) | What do you mean? What activities were planned and were never implemented? | This has been corrected to read: . There were interventions for increasing farm incomes through use of micro irrigation systems, establishment of fishponds and stocking with fingerlings, acquisition and delivery of dairy animals and poultry to support farmers. Market stalls were also built to provide selling outlets for farm produce |
| 3.4 Project implementation status (pg 8-9) | ” However, no specific activities had been done to protect these wetlands.”  Isn’t demarcation an initiative to protect wetlands? | Corrected |
| 3.4 Project implementation status (pg 8-9) | “There were no interventions for increasing farm incomes through use of micro irrigation systems and use of high yielding varieties because the project had not initiated climate resilient agriculture practices. This was also attributed to non-achievable targets that had been set”  This comes out as negative.  Did we really not implement any alternative livelihoods? | corrected |
| 4.3 Limitations, Risks and Mitigations Measures (pg 14) | “Although the two were involved in the initial phase of the project, it was not possible to confirm their level of inputs.”  I think UNDP gave you some information on what these two NGOs contributed | The text has been edited to read as follows:  “Two NGOs, BRAC and EcoTrust were initially involved in the implementation of the project and indeed were assigned to implement a wetlands system PES model. BRAC started on the sensitization work in some districts while EcoTrust developed a PES model based on tree and forest carbon rather than on wetland ecosystem services. Subsequently, the services of the two NGOs were discontinued by UNDP.” |
| 6.2 Project implementation (pg 17-18) | This project was implemented through Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), with UNDP working directly with the District Local Governments (DLG) in the five districts. Other responsible partners include District Local Government of Kaliro, Budaka, Butaleja, Kibuku and Namutumba districts” These two sentences are repetitive, not complementary. | Revised as follows:  ” This project was implemented through Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), with UNDP working directly with the District Local Governments (DLG) of Kaliro, Budaka, Butaleja, Kibuku and Namutumba districts in the five districts.” |
| 6.2 Project implementation (pg 17-18) | “Implementation of this 3-year project was to start in February 2021 and end in December 2024, a no – cost extension was granted up to December 31, 2024.” Error here. | Revised as follows:  “Implementation of this 3-year project started in February 2021 and end in December 2023, a no – cost extension was granted up to December 31, 2024.” |
| 6.3.3 Effectiveness  Effectiveness (pg 21) | “District CAOs, RDC, DNROs, MWE, Chairmen of local council, District Production Officers, and District Community Development”  This list should not be presented as exhaustive as it is not. E.g., Agric officers, Vet Officers, SAS, etc.. | Revised as follows:  “The project was supported in mobilization and sensitization by key District CAOs, RDC, DNROs, MWE, Chairpersons of local councils District Production Officers, District Community Development Officers and many others” |
| 6.3.3 Effectiveness  Effectiveness (pg 21) | ”Chairmen” Use gender sensitive terms please e.g., chairpersons. | Changed to Chairpersons |
| 6.3.3 Effectiveness (pg 21) | “the border between the wetlands and community lands have been left unattended except for natural regeneration of vegetation”  Natural regeneration is part of restoration especially where man made drainage systems are not affecting the recolonization of restored areas | Corrected to read: The buffer zones. the border between the wetlands and community lands have recovered through natural regeneration of vegetation. It was observed that some pillar markers are partially submerged in water, as water levels in the wetland rise and as wetland vegetation re-emerges. |
| 6.3.3 Effectiveness (pg 21) | “It was noted that some pillars are partially submerged in water. A total of 2,416 ha/6705ha of degraded wetland was restored on its own after paddy rice and sugarcane farmers vacated.”  This is exactly what is supposed to happen once communities stop draining the wetland. This is directly attributable to the work of the project and restored areas are part of the total restored wetland by the project. | Agree that this is an indicator of achievement towards the goal of the project |
| Page 21 | ‘Pillar indicating wetland boundary. | The caption was corrected |
| 6.3.3 Effectiveness (pg 22) | “Within 12 months of abandoning fields, wetland vegetation has shown signs of recovery. Water levels have increased beyond the areas that were under cultivation. From field observations, it was noted that wetlands vegetation is spreading to the restoration areas, including papyrus, including miwa musirye sirye that are used for fodder and firewood. There is now more pasture for grazing livestock from the banks of the river, simply because cultivation in no longer being done up to the edge of the water.  Another indicator of wetland recovery is the increased fish stock in the wetlands particularly lung fish. Increased fish stocks have led to an increase in the number of people engaged in fishing for own food and income.” Colour changes to grey here. | Text color harmonized all throughout the report |
| 6.4.5 Sustainability (pg 25) | “are potential risks towards sustainability of demarcated areas and those vacated by farmers, which is likely to be exposed to re-occupation if un-demarcated areas are not demarcated and pillar markers erected…So far, a small number of the people who left the demarcated areas have started coming back into some of the demarcated areas. Lack of alternative sources of livelihood by farmers who stopped farming in the wetlands can be a threat to sustainability of achievements made so far. Therefore, this TE recommends additional interventions to enhance livelihoods in the catchment areas to mitigate movements into the wetlands”  This paragraph is mixing un-demarcated areas and demarcated with regards to re-encroachment. You could separate the two to improve clarity. | This has been changed to read: Lack of alternative sources of livelihood could be a major threat to sustainability of achievements made so far. There are some farmers who never vacated the demarcated wetlands and still cultivate crops there. Besides that, a few people who left the demarcated areas migrated to un-demarcated wetlands to restart their farming activities. Therefore, this TE recommends additional interventions to enhance livelihoods in the catchment areas to mitigate peoples’ movements into the wetlands. |
| 6.3.6 Impacts (pg 26) | “hardy” Is it hardy or handy? | Revised to “handy” |
| 6.3.6 Impacts (pg 26) | Natural regeneration is part of restoration especially where man made drainage systems are not affecting the recolonisation of restored areas. |  |
|  | This is exactly what is supposed to happen once communities stop draining the wetland. This is directly attributable to the work of the project and restored areas are part of the total restored wetland by the project. | We concur |
| 6.3.6 Impacts (pg =27) | “It was noted that recipients of in calf high breed heifers have the potential of improving livelihoods, first through production of higher quantities of milk and secondly by using manure from the livestock to improve soil fertility in order to increase crop yields. It was noted that one of the farmers had healthy banana stems after using manure from the animal which he was granted by the project”  This could be phrased better. Please revise to improve clarity. | Rephrased as  ” It was noted that recipients of in in-calf hybrid heifers have the potential of improving livelihoods, first through production of higher quantities of milk and secondly by using manure from the livestock to improve soil fertility in order to increase crop yields. It was noted that one of the farmers had healthy banana stems after using manure from the animal which he was granted by the projectOne of the heifer beneficiaries was already using manure in his banana garden, that was growing vigorously” |
| 6.3.7 Cross cutting issues  Gender (pg 27) | “Therefore, few women had received heifers and was attributed to the fact that women don’t own land”  Would be good to compare how many women vs how many men received different types of livestock. | Rephrased as:  . Therefore, few women had received heifers and was attributed to the fact that women don’t own land. Also those women who received livestock seemed to be in a co-ownership arrangement with their spouses. Unequal participation of men and women in the project is attributed to patriarchy which underpin male dominance in access to high value economic opportunities. Correcting the imbalance will require some form of affirmative action that enhance participation of a high proportion of women in economic activities, sensitization of both men and women and uplifting women dominated enterprises/sectors |
|  | “There are potential risks towards sustainability of demarcated areas and those vacated by farmers, which is likely to be exposed to re-occupation if un-demarcated areas are not demarcated and pillar markers erected…So far, a small number of the people who left the demarcated areas have started coming back into some of the demarcated areas. Lack of alternative sources of livelihood by farmers who stopped farming in the wetlands can be a threat to sustainability of achievements made so far. Therefore, this TE recommends additional interventions to enhance livelihoods in the catchment areas to mitigate movements into the wetlands.”  This paragraph is mixing un-demarcated areas and demarcated with regards to re-encroachment. You could separate the two to improve clarity. | Text revised to read as follows:  “There are potential risks towards sustainability of demarcated areas and those vacated by farmers, which is likely to be exposed to re-occupation. This is likely some parts of the wetlands in these districts remain if un-demarcated areas are not demarcated and pillar markers erected. Since in these un-demarcated areas, the farmers are still cultivating crops in the wetlands…So far, a small number of the people who left the demarcated areas have started coming back into some of the demarcated areas. Lack of alternative sources of livelihood by farmers who stopped farming in the wetlands can be a threat to sustainability of achievements made so far. Therefore, this TE recommends additional interventions to enhance livelihoods in the catchment areas to mitigate movements into the wetlands” |

## 9.2. Instruments for data collection

Interview guide/ Questionnaire: All Stakeholders

Name of respondent(s)/Group:

District

Sub – county

Date:

Interviewer

1. How relevant was the involvement of different partners in Project implementation given the institutional and policy framework for wetland restoration and catchment management sectors in Uganda?

2.What was the level of participation of diverse stakeholders in project processes, activities?

3. What were the project coordination structures and how did it affect efficiency in project implementation?

4.What were the contributions made by stakeholders who participated in various roles/practices aimed at reducing negative exploitation of the wetlands?

5.Which ecosystem restoration/rehabilitation interventions were implemented and to what extent has these met the objectives of the project?

6.Which type of ecosystem services have so far been restored and what are its impacts on the communities?

7. In which ways has the project strengthened the resilience of the wetlands and the associated catchment areas?

8. Which project interventions are likely to compromise the ecosystem and the needs of the people in the project area?

9. How were the resources (time, personnel and finances), coordination and synergies from partnerships utilized towards attainment of results?

10.What were the project inputs and activities that were implemented to address the livelihood needs and priorities of the targeted communities in the wetlands area?

11. Which activities were implemented/adopted by men. women and vulnerable people?

12. What was the cost of inputs/activities that were implemented?

13. What was the role of each implementing agency and their level of action in the delivery of project outputs/outcomes?

14. What are beneficiary’s perceptions of the project inputs/activities that were implemented by the project?

15. What was the rate/level of participation in project activities by beneficiaries?

16. How has the project addressed market conditions, institutional strengthening and capacity building for wetland restoration and improved catchment management and the promotion of alternative livelihood sources?

17. How has the project addressed capacity gaps at the sub county level and restoration of wetlands?

18. In which ways were other partners involved in the implementation of the Project?

19. In which ways has the project involved and empowered communities and groups to implement wetland management and alternative livelihood sources as they relate to integrated catchment management in the project areas?

20. Which negative impacts were occasioned by the implementation of the project and what were the effects on gender?

21. How has the project incorporated gender issues as they relate to wetland management?

22. What were the implementation ‘bottlenecks that were encountered’, and How were these bottleneck resolved?

23. What has been the cause for the delays in the implementation and delivery of outputs of the RWACP project?

24. What are some of the socio-cultural aspects that affected the delivery of the project?

25. In which ways were gender and human rights issues integrated in the design and implementation processes of the project

26.What political/financial factors have influenced sustainability of the project?

27. What are the necessary conditions that are likely to enable replicability of wetland restoration piloted under the project?

28. What is the extent of sustainability of the practices that the communities adopted? Which land use changes were implemented would be durable even at the end of the project?

29. Which interventions brought or are about to yield significant impacts on beneficiaries?

30.what extent has the project led to increased income and livelihood improvement among beneficiaries?

31. What are the qualitative social-economic effects of the project on beneficiaries?

32. What commitments have been put in place to ensure sustainability of the interventions to ensure that communities continue to enjoy services from the restored/rehabilitated ecosystems

## 9.3 Results Assessment Form (RAF)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FOR THE EVALUATION MANAGER AND ADA PPM TO FILL IN (Part 1)** | | | | |  |  | **FOR THE EVALUATOR/S TO FILL IN (Part 2)** | | |  |  |  |
| **ADA PP Number** | **ADA Organizational Unit managing the PP** | **PP Title** | **CRS Code/s** | **Country/Region of PP** | **Evaluation Manager** | **Project Budget** | **Evaluation company/ evaluator** | **Timing of evaluation** | **Completion date of evaluation (xx/xx/xxxx)** | **Assessment of results - key aspects** | **Score (choose only one answer for each aspect assessed)** | **Justifiy score. Include finding and reference page/s in evaluation report.** |
| 2853-00/2020 | Water and Sanitation | Restoration of wetlands and Associated catchments in Eastern Uganda. |  | **Uganda- East Africa** | **L** | **Euro** 2,111,111 | James Mwangi and Michael Mbogga | October - December 2024 | 12/06/2024 | 1. The extent to which the planned ouput/s (as defined in the project document/logframe/Theory of Change) has/have been achieved taking into account the causal link between inputs and outputs. This project has made significant strides in restoring wetlands in the five districts of Budaka, Butaleja, Kaliro, Kibuku and Namutumba in the Mpologoma Catchment in eastern Uganda. The idea of sensitizing communities about value of wetland protection, providing alternative livelihood options helped in the ensuring the cultivation in wetlands stops | L (Largely achieved) | This project has made significant strides in restoring wetlands in the five districts of Budaka, Butaleja, Kaliro, Kibuku and Namutumba in the Mpologoma Catchment in eastern Uganda. The idea of sensitizing communities about value of wetland protection, providing alternative livelihood options helped in the ensuring the cultivation in wetlands stops |
| 2853-00/2021 | Water and Sanitation | Restoration of wetlands and Associated catchments in Eastern Uganda. |  | **Uganda- East Africa** | **L** | **Euro** 2,111,112 | James Mwangi and Michael Mbogga | October - December 2024 | 12/06/2024 | 2. The extent to which the planned outcome/s (as defined in the project document/logframe/Theory of Change) has/have been achieved taking into account the causal link between outputs and outcomes. 45% of the degaded wetland was demarcated and restored. Restored wetlands are showing indication of recoverly including increased water levels, increased fish stocks and re-emergence of wetland vegetation such as the ginat sedge. | L (Largely achieved) | 118km (2,416 ha) of degraded wetland demarcated with concrete pillars, 250,373 tree seedlings planted in the catchment, cultivation of crops in demarcated wetlands stopped, farmers were trained in alternative livelihoods options, farmers were given alternative livelihood options including 256 in-calf hybrid heifers, 344 goats, 1320 chicken, 10 fish points, 4 markets constructed, solar-powered micro-irrigation equipment provided and 10 shallow wells constructed to provide water for domestic use and micro-irrigation (pages 22-24)  45% of the degraded wetland was demarcated and restored. Restored wetlands are showing indication of recovery including increased water levels, increased fish stocks and re-emergence of wetland vegetation such as the giant sedge. |
| 2853-00/2022 | Water and Sanitation | Restoration of wetlands and Associated catchments in Eastern Uganda. |  | **Uganda- East Africa** | **L** | **Euro** 2,111,113 | James Mwangi and Michael Mbogga | October - December 2024 | 12/06/2024 | 3. The extent to which the PP contributed to the objectives at impact level (as defined in the project document/logframe/ToC). Local communities are aware of the need to protect wetlands from dergadation, they are also aware of the permitted and prohibited activities in wetlands. | L (Largely achieved) | Local communities are aware of the need to protect wetlands from degradation, they are also aware of the permitted and prohibited activities in wetlands. |
| 2853-00/2023 | Water and Sanitation | Restoration of wetlands and Associated catchments in Eastern Uganda. |  | **Uganda- East Africa** | **P** | **Euro** 2,111,114 | James Mwangi and Michael Mbogga | October - December 2024 | 12/06/2024 | 4. The extent to which the outputs, outcomes and impact achieved contributed to results related to the relevant cross-cutting issues. Please add a justification for each relevant cross-cutting issue. | P (Partly achieved) | There was an imbalance in participation of women in most activities e.g. attending awareness creation meetings, training in CSA and VSLA and erecting pillar markers (pg 29) |
| 2853-00/2024 | Water and Sanitation | Restoration of wetlands and Associated catchments in Eastern Uganda. |  | **Uganda- East Africa** | **L** | **Euro** 2,111,115 | James Mwangi and Michael Mbogga | October - December 2024 | 12/06/2024 | 5. Have the right approaches - with a view to implementing ADA's overarching principles - been adopted to ensure results achievement? The TE applied the right approaches to fully implement ADA evaluatoin principles. The evaluation criteia was thoughtfully applied to ensure a high quality evaluation, and applied to suit the prevailing circumstances | L (Largely achieved) |  |

## 9.4. List of interviewed Stakeholders

|  | Date | Name | Sex (M/F) | Organisation responsibility / District/ Sub | Phone | Email |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 05/11/2024 | Sarah Mujabi | F | Project Manager RWACP |  |  |
|  | 05/11/2024 | Paul Diogo | M | DNRO, Kaliro DLG |  |  |
|  | 05/11/2024 | Emmanuel Kanana | M | LC III Chairperson | 0789234029 |  |
|  | 05/11/2024 | Franco Lyakota | M | LC I Chairperson | 0775609471 |  |
|  | 05/11/2024 | Lumbuyessa Katuba | M | Councilor | 0758097666 |  |
|  | 05/11/2024 | Dalausi Nsambadha | M | Heifer Beneficiary Namwiwa Sub county | - |  |
|  | 05/11/2024 | Livingstone Musumami | M | Heifer Beneficiary Namwiwa Sub county | 0775193063 |  |
|  | 05/11/2024 | Joshua Gavuma | M | Heifer Beneficiary Namwiwa Sub county | 0757215247 |  |
|  | 05/11/2024 | Harriet Naluko | F | Heifer Beneficiary Namwiwa Sub county | 0759696612 |  |
|  | 05/11/2024 | Edisa Namukose | F | Heifer Beneficiary Namwiwa Sub county | - |  |
|  | 06/11/2024 | Godfrey Gokaka | M | Regional Water Officer Eastern - MWE | 0772341241 | gokakag@yahoo.com |
|  | 06/11/2024 | Topher Arinaitwe | M | Senior Environment Officer - MWE | 0782687190 | topherarinatiwe@yahoo.com |
|  | 06/11/2024 | Fatuma Katooko | F | Lyama Sub county | 0782424827 |  |
|  | 06/11/2024 | Ahamadan Sawabuli | M | Poutlty Benefitciary Lyama sub county | 0759672563 |  |
|  | 07/11/2024 | Catherine Higenyi | F |  | 0877341209 |  |
|  | 07/11/2024 | Clement Magezi | M | Chairperson, Kisenyi water user committee | - |  |
|  | 07/11/2024 | Mboisi A. Musigire | M | Parish Chief/Environmental Focal Point | 0782477054 |  |
|  | 07/11/2024 | Lamula Were | F | Butaleja | 0782608259 | Lamulawere@gmail.com |
|  | 07/11/2024 | Tom Wandera | M | Butaleja | 0781421432 | tomwandera@gmail.com |
|  | 07/11/2024 | Yusufu Mwima | M | Fisheries Oficer Butaleja DLG | 0759985972 | yusufumwima@gmail.com |
|  | 07/11/2024 | Dan Hiitu | M | Aquaculture beneficiaries Mulisha Village | 0751577157 |  |
|  | 07/11/2024 | Edward Kamenya | M | Aquaculture beneficiaries Mulisha Village | - |  |
|  | 07/11/2024 | C. Otieno | M | Aquaculture beneficiaries Mulisha Village | 0783855872 |  |
|  | 07/11/2024 | Moses Higenyi | M | Aquaculture beneficiaries Mulisha Village | 0701073349 |  |
|  | 07/11/2024 | Joseph Walufeere | M | Aquaculture beneficiaries Mulisha Village | 0771085663 |  |
|  | 07/11/2024 | Richard Wamalwa | M | Aquaculture beneficiaries Mulisha Village | 0781789926 |  |
|  | 07/11/2024 | Isaac Nampandu | M | Aquaculture beneficiaries Mulisha Village | 0703521291 |  |
|  | 8/11/2024 | Joseph Kaugule | M | DNRO Kibuku DLG | 0782361542 | Jkaugule@yahoo.com |
|  |  | Afani Dalumondo | M | Nandere | 0779711355 |  |
|  | 8/11/2024 | Hamidu Jamada | M | LC II Chairperson Nandere SC | 0774913887 |  |
|  | 8/11/2024 | Alamanzan Hogomber Higenda | M | Heifer Beneficiary Nandere SC | 0774847273 |  |
|  | 8/11/2024 | Janina Higenda | F | Heifer Beneficiary Nandere SC | 0784906445 |  |
|  | 11/11/2024 | Moses Kirya | M | Environment Officer, Namutumba DLG | 0782478168 | kiryamoze@gmail.com |
|  | 11/11/2024 | Tonny Byentaka | M | Agricultural Oficer, Officer Namutumba DLG | 0700423306 | Newtonbyentaka@yahoo.com |
|  | 11/11/2024 | Paul Samanya | M | D - Planner, Officer Namutumba DLG | 0785186398 | samanyapaul@gmail.com |
|  | 11/11/2024 | George Kigombe | M | Fisheries Officer Namutumba DLG | 0702827273 | kigombegeorge@gmail.com |
|  | 11/11/2024 | Ivan Mugomba | M | Ag. DAO, Namutumba DLG | 0772068289 | jmugomba@gmail.com |
|  | 11/11/2024 | Dauda Ikaaba | M | DNRO, Namutumba DLG | 0772923376 | ikaabad@gmail.com |
|  | 11/11/2024 | Ibrahahim Wandera | M | CP LC III, Bulange SC | 0777046987 | wanderaibrahim@gmail.com |
|  | 11/11/2024 | David Gwire | M | SAS Bulange SC | 0752707560 | clsgwiredavid@gmail.com |
|  | 11/11/2024 | Cissy Tafanika | F | CDO, Bulange SC | 0772929248 | cissytafanika@yahoo.com |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Abey Kagwa | M | Namutumba DLG | 0772908254 | Akagwa2020@gmail.com |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Samuel Mukama | M | Namutumba DLG | 0782080719 | mukamasamuel875@gmail.com |
|  | 12/11/2024 | William Bamusubire | M | Forestry, Namutumba DLG | 0774380502 | williambamuz@gmail.com |
|  | 12/11/2024 | John Dhabangi | M | Namutumba DLG | 0778621742 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Fatuma Nangobi | F | Budomero village |  |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Fatuma Nanadasi | F | Nawandagala Market | 0785514288 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Nahiya Nampiina | F | Nawandagala Market |  |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Amina Lyaga | F | Nawandagala Market |  |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Shane Nali | F | Nawandagala Market |  |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Aisha Mutesi | F | Nawandagala Market | 0741460087 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Nabinyi Kamuyata | F | Nawandagala Market | 0740407735 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Lusi Nabinyi | F | Nawandagala Market |  |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Bakilama Matumayo | M | C/person LCIII Kisenyi | 0780260764 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Daniel Nsete | M |  | - |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Aggrey Kaiture | M |  | 0787903480 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Muhamad Kamya | M |  | 0765821204 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Fatuma Aliyinza | F |  | 0779275322 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Sulai Tigatola | M |  | 0704850520 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Yokaanya Isabirye | M |  | 0787327882 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Abbu Nabongho | M |  | 0787069288 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Zakiya Bampalana |  | Chair person | 0775656730 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Basir Mubene |  |  | - |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Ekomowad Kawambo | M | Kitumba Village Nakaziba Parish | 0774012104 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Simon Mukose | M | Kitumba Village | 0764966437 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Rogers Mukose | M | Kitumba Village | 0763215269 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Moses Mukose | M | Chairperson, Kitumba Village | 0781330719 |  |
|  | 12/11/2024 | Odinansi Nabirye | F | Poultry Beneficiary Kitumba Village | 0761933862 |  |
|  | 13/11/2024 | Bosco Toto | M | Nakikondo Village | 0772177313 |  |
|  | 13/11/2024 | Joseph Bazibu | M | Nakikondo Village | 0786807556 |  |
|  | 13/11/2024 | Joseph Kirano | M | Nsulumbi Nabukoko | 0781356580 |  |
|  | 13/11/2024 | Zaboki Waziboine |  | Nsulumbi Kisinda Parish | 0778103976 |  |
| 73. | 14/11/2024 | Tom Sengalama | M | UNDP |  |  |

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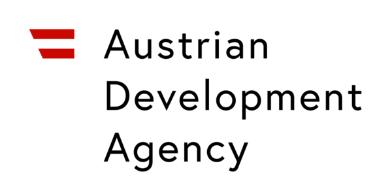
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Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), 2020

Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS, 2014)

## Evaluation ToR

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Description automatically generated  

**Terms of Reference (TORs) for the National Consultant to Undertake Final Project Evaluation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project Name:  Project Number: | Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments Project (RWACP) in Eastern Uganda  2853-00/2020 |
| **Project Duration:** | February 2021 to June 2024 |
| Project Location: | Namutumba, Kibuku, Butaleja, Budaka and Kaliro districts |
| Assignment duration: | 30 working days |
| Expected Start Date: | 01st September 2024 |

August 2024.

**Context and Background**

United nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the District Local Governments of Namutumba, Kaliro, Kibuku, Budaka and Butaleja has implemented a 3-year project titled **“Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments Project (RWAP) in Eastern Uganda.”** This project, running from February 2021 to June 2024, has an overall budget of €2,111,110

The Primary objective of the RWAP is to restore wetland ecosystem services and associated catchments by promoting catchment based integrated, equitable and sustainable management of water and related resources. The project primarily focuses on the Kyoga Water Management Zone, particularly the Mpologoma Catchment Area.

Project activities have been developed to respond to specific climate-related impacts and vulnerabilities of the Mpologoma catchment as outlined by the Mpologoma Catchment Management Plan. Key activities include, sustainable land management practices and reforestation; support climate resilient agricultural practices; and alternative livelihoods for communities living in these areas to reduce the pressures on the wetlands.

The RWAP complements the GCF/GoU/UNDP wetland restoration project and has been operational in selected sub counties of the five project districts. Under this project, degraded wetlands were demarcated for natural recovery, and affected persons were supported to use improved agricultural production practices and take on alternative livelihood options in the catchment areas.

The project interventions were structured in three main components:

1. **Restoration and management of wetland hydrology and associated catchments** with the aim of developing healthy wetlands in the targeted areas.
2. **Improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options in the wetland catchments,** with the aim of enhancing adoption of more resilient and sustainable livelihoods
3. **Knowledge Management and communication,** with the aim of sharing knowledge and disseminating lessons learned from the project.

The overall targets of the project include,

* Restoration of 6,705 hectares of degraded wetlands.
* Restoration of 2,110 hectares of degraded catchment areas.
* Protection of five intact wetlands.
* At least a 50% increase in agricultural incomes through use of improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options.
* At least 50% of the people involved in livelihood options being women.

The intended outcome is to enhance the resilience of communities and the ecosystems of wetlands and associated catchments in the selected districts of the River Mpologoma Catchment. The expected outputs and indicators are displayed in the table below.

| **EXPECTED OUTPUTS** | **OUTPUT INDICATORS** | **Target by end of project** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Output 1:** Degraded Wetlands, natural grasslands and associated catchments restored and or rehabilitated and intact wetlands protected | **1.1** Area (Ha) of degraded wetlands restored. | 6,705 Ha |
| **1.2** Area (Ha) of degraded catchment restored and/or rehabilitated | 1,211 Ha |
| **1.3** Number of intact wetlands protected | 5 wetlands |
| Output 2  Improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options in the wetland catchment | 2.1 Percentage increase in Household agricultural incomes and alternative livelihood in the project sites | At least 50% increase in agricultural incomes |
| 2.2 Percentage of women involved in livelihood interventions in the project sites. | 50% of people involved are women |

The project placed emphasis on participation and engagement of women at all levels and was implemented within established government structures to ensure continuity of results after project conclusion. The key project stakeholders and their roles are included in table 1 below.

Table 5: key project stakeholders and roles

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Stakeholder** | **Roles and responsibilities during project** |
| Water User Committee (WUCs) and Water Users | * Management of the water source and surroundings * Make by-laws for management of water source. * Ensure availability of funds for maintaining the water sources created. |
| Sub county Local Government (SLG) | * Formation of the project technical support team * Support implementation of action plans agreed to in the project. * Supervise and monitor works by Parish staff and local partners. * Establishment and training of WUCs, with Local Partners * Review and approval of by-laws for management of shared facilities within the sub county |
| District Local Government (DLG) | * Provide enabling environment for project to run. * Identification of project focus areas/sites * Supervise and monitor project activities: Quality assurance. * Facilitate community-based processes like wetland demarcation and selection of locations for placement of major project infrastructure like markets, * Guide enterprise selection as alternative livelihoods for different groups/communities * Support assurance of supply of good quality materials to the beneficiaries (cows, goats etc) * Link with and guide the project management |
| Regional Environment management Team | * Guide both wetland and catchment activities (regional wetland coordinator and the M&E, they oversee implementation of the project in that region) * Implement on behalf Ministry. * Report about the project to the central Ministry * Supervise and monitor project on behalf of MWE. * Quality assurance at district level |
| Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) | * Provide govt position on contentious issues * Provide technical guidance through staff based at regional centers (TSU) |
| Private sector players | * Provide technical support in capacity building of district and sub county technical staff in water safety monitoring |

Mid-year review, 2022: A mid-year review was undertaken in November 2023 which established the following:

* Identifying, mapping and profiling priority sites for restoration of the wetlands and micro catchments in the selected Districts was done, though there were some gaps in the profiles, particularly land uses, social and economic data of users and their user rights, functionality and hydrologic makeup of landscape, and extent of disturbance of the wetlands in the targeted wetlands
* Demarcation of the wetlands (both intact and degraded) has been carried out by UNDP and government officials and some was still on-going
* As part of developing catchment management plans for the selected wetlands,, 90,000 tree seedlings were planted in the catchment areas adjacent to the wetlands being restored in April – May/2023.
* Contracts for the excavation and construction of wells were awarded, with the schedule to complete the activity by the end of Dec 2023.
* Environmental and Social screening was yet to be done for specific activities under Output 2, as a preparatory step to enable necessary mitigation measures to be applied
* No incentive schemes to organized groups/ communities for ultimate restoration and rehabilitation of degraded wetlands and associated catchments have been established yet, but some guiding reports were developed by ECOTRUST
* Regarding Developing abstraction and distribution of water for development of capture fisheries, aquaculture and micro irrigation: an inventory of existing water ponds was developed and two roadside markets were constructed by BRAC. These were completed with latrines. Contracts have been issued for construction om markets in Kibuku and Kaliro Districts.
* Regarding Promoting resilient agricultural best practices, establishing farmer registration and profiling platform and facilitating the community agriculture extension workers to implement climate-smart agriculture practices was completed by BRAC. However, these need to be reviewed and concretized for the benefit of the project.
* The project provided solar PV-based portable water pumps to some of the groups in the community (on group sharing basis) for use in home gardens along with some farm inputs (seeds, fertilizer, etc.).
* Regarding developing alternative livelihoods options through promoting gender responsive on and off-farm business enterprises, communities were trained on savings and credit models (including financial literacy and entrepreneur training)
* Project beneficiaries were organized into groups. According to the project team, as of Sep 2023, the number of target households registered was 9302 which were structured into 563 groups with an average percentage composition of 35.48% women.
* Orders were placed or were being placed for supporting these groups for different means of livelihood (Poultry, Tailoring, fisheries, Dairy, cows, goats, etc. (Noted that the targets for this indicator are unrealistic and unachievable, the assessment at MTE has been done in terms of the targets mentioned in the project design).

**Objective**

The main objective of the evaluation is to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments Project and its partners. This evaluation aims to provide actionable insights to guide the future direction of the program. Additionally, it serves as a means for the UNDP to demonstrate accountability to beneficiaries, partners, and donors.

**Scope**

The evaluation will specifically focus on the performance of the project over the 3-year period from 2021 to 2024 and will utilize findings of the mid-term review as background documents.

The geographical scope of this evaluation will be limited to the 5 project districts and 9 project sub counties. The details of the five project districts and 9 project sub counties is as indicated in table 1 below.

Table 6: Project districts and sub counties

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project district** | **Project sub-counties (30% will be sampled from each district)** |
| Namutumba | Bulange, Bugobi |
| Kibuku | Nandere |
| Budaka | Nansanga and Lyama |
| Butaleja | Nawanjovu and Busaba |
| Kaliro | Namwiwa and Kisinga |

The assignment is expected to be concluded within 30 days, from the date of entering into the consultancy agreement.

**Evaluation Questions**

In line with the overall goal and objectives, this exercise will adopt the OECD DAC evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and Impact) and represent the report along the same criteria.

**Relevance:**

* To what extent were project objectives consistent with GoU’s /priorities pertaining environmental sustainability and agricultural development as outlined in the Mpologoma Catchment Management Plan, including sustainable development goals?
* How relevant and appropriate was the project design and implementation in strengthening the resilience of the wetlands and the associated catchment areas.
* To what extent did the project interventions address the specific needs and priorities of the targeted communities in the wetland areas?

**Effectiveness:**

* To what extent did the project achieve its objectives and improve the livelihood of beneficiaries?
* Did the project equally benefit both women and men, and how did it specifically benefit vulnerable groups?
* To what extent were cross-cutting issues such as gender and human rights mainstreamed into the project?

**Efficiency:**

* Was the project implemented in the most efficient way (time, personnel resources) and maintenance of minimum costs? Did any issues emerge, if so which ones and why? Did coordination arrangements reduce transaction costs and increase the efficiency of project implementation? Did the project create synergies among agencies and involve concerted efforts to optimize results and avoid duplication? How well did UNDP use partnerships (with civil society/private sector/local government/other institutions/ development partners) to deliver project results? How adequately did the management respond to emerging issues in planning and during the implementation of the project? To what extent did harmonization measures at the operational level contribute to improved efficiency and results?

**Sustainability.**

* What is the likelihood that results of the project will remain permanently, both in terms of durable decisions and best practices? (Has there been any systematic change in institutions capacity to better manage, implement and coordinate the project?)

**Impact:**

* Which positive and/or negative effects/impacts can be possibly attributed to the implementation of project? Has there been any systematic change in institutions capacity to better manage, implement and coordinate the project?
* To which extent has the project contributed/demonstrated verifiable improvements in the wetland ecosystem restored? This includes reducing degradation and encroachment on wetlands. What evidence shows progress towards achieving these improvements?
* How have the enhanced agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options affected the income levels and resilience of the local communities targeted by the project?
* What unintended consequences, whether positive or negative, have arisen from the project's interventions?

**Methodology, Design and Approach**

The Terminal Evaluation will be a highly consultative exercise with wider involvement of stakeholders. UNDP and partners will be engaged to provide information. The Evaluation team will prepare and submit to UNDP Management an Inception Report that further refines the overall scope, approach, design and timeframe, and provide a detailed outline of the methodology. The methodology should align with United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards and will involve the use of participatory approaches. The evaluation will follow the standards as outlined in ADA’s [Guidelines for Program and Project Evaluations](https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/Evaluierung/Evaluierungs_Leitfaeden/Guidelines_for_Programme_and_Project_Evaluations_ADA_2020.pdf).

ADA and OECD/DAC Programme and Project Evaluation guidelines. The consultant will propose a methodology for the study. The consultants are expected to employ mixed methods to successfully deliver this assignment. The following data collection methods are suggested:

* 1. **Document Review (Secondary Data):** The consultant will review: the baseline reports; project proposals (budget and updated log frame; planning, monitoring and evaluation matrix; activity plans); project reports (narrative and financial); mid-term review/evaluation report and any other documents deemed critically important for the evaluation.
  2. **Onsite visual observation:** In conjunction with other methods, the consultant will (observe wetland restoration, agricultural practices and alternative livelihoods/ related activities; ask questions; visit communities, water sources, sub counties and districts; make sketches, take photographs or videos etc.)
  3. **Interviews:** Loosely structured interviews will be conducted with key informants (groups or individual) (project staff, UNDP partners (Local Capacity Builders) staff, sub county and District officials, ADA staff, Regional MWE officials, local leaders of the target communities, other development partners);
     1. **Focus Group Discussions**: with members of water users and market, alternative livelihoods ‘groups, local leaders, or officials, ensuring no more than 4-8 people in the group.
     2. **Surveys**

**Evaluation criteria**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Maximum Obtainable Points** | **Weight Percentage** |
| Masters’ degree in Environment or related discipline with extensive experience in monitoring and evaluations | 15 | 15% |
| Demonstrated experience of leading and conducting evaluations of development cooperation projects/programs (leading at least 2, conducting at least 5). | 20 | 20% |
| Demonstrated good understanding and knowledge of the Uganda Wetlands management sub-sector is desirable | 15 | 15% |
| Proposed Methodology - depicts an in-depth understanding that aligns with United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards and follow the standards outlined in ADA’s [Guidelines for Program and Project Evaluations](https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/Evaluierung/Evaluierungs_Leitfaeden/Guidelines_for_Programme_and_Project_Evaluations_ADA_2020.pdf) | 20 | 20% |
| **Total technical score** | **70** | **70%** |
| **Financial: 30%** | **30** | **30%** |
| Overall Total Scores | 100 | 100% |
| Confidentiality and Property Interests  The Consultant shall not either during the term or after the termination of the assignment, disclose any proprietary or confidential information related to the consultancy service without prior written consent. Proprietary interests on all materials and documents prepared by the consultants under the assignment shall become and remain properties of UNDP |  |  |

**Timeline and Deliverables**

The evaluation is scheduled to be conducted between 01st August and 25th August 2024. The evaluation team headed by the Lead Consultant is responsible for preparing a comprehensive report which triangulates findings to address the evaluation questions, highlights key significant changes related to key thematic policy documents, draws out lessons learned, present findings and recommendations. The report should reflect comments and feedback received from stakeholders.

The structure of the reports should be used to guide the reader to the main areas. The language of the reports should be simple, free from jargon and with specialist terms explained.

The principal evaluation products the evaluation Team is accountable for include.

1. An inception report (25-35 pages without annexes), which should follow ADA Evaluation guidelines, Annex5. It will include a detailed work plan schedule; detailed data collection methodology; data collection tools; data analysis plan, an evaluation matrix; and detailed outline of the evaluation report. The methodology should include a stakeholder mapping and elaborate how the evaluation team will ensure inclusivity and participation of key stakeholders in the Evaluation process.

1. A draft End-term Evaluation report (about 35-50 pages without annexes), as per agreed format, report template. Plus, a PPT presenting the draft.

- Presentation for the presentation of preliminary findings (virtual meeting).

- The completed Result-Assessment Form (RAF) which must be submitted together with the draft evaluation report.

1. A final Report including, an executive summary (35-50 pages without annexes), as per agreed report template (Refer to current UNDP Evaluation guidelines for report structure and content).

Note: *The inception report, evaluation report and RAF need to fulfil ADA standards for program and project evaluations (see 12.) and will be quality checked by the commissioning organization before approval.*

Payment Schedule

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Payment on submission of a synopsis and inception report including a stakeholder mapping, a detailed work plan schedule; detailed data collection methodology; data collection tools; data analysis plan, an evaluation matrix; and detailed outline of the evaluation report. | 20% |
| 2 | Payment on submission of Draft Report | 50% |
| 3 | Payment on submission of Final Report | 30% |
|  |  |  |

Table 7: Activities and timeline/duration

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Activity** | **Date** |
| 1. Sourcing of consultants/ firms to conduct the evaluation | | 1st Sept 2024 |
| 1. Evaluation of proposal and contracting | | 8th Sept 2024 |
| 1. Submission of complete Inception Report and synopsis | | 13th Sept 2024 |
| 1. Presentation of findings | | 20th Sept 2024 |
| 1. Submission of draft report | | 27th Sept 2024 |
| 1. Submission of final report complete with comments response matrix | | 4th Oct 2024 |

**Evaluation Management Arrangements**

The Team Leader NCER at UNDP will be the contact person between the Evaluation team members (the Lead Consultant and the National Consultant) while the RWAC Project Manager will provide oversight for the evaluation in collaboration with UNDP to ensure all outputs are delivered as per the TOR. Logistical support (scheduling of interviews, local travels, arrangement of field accommodation during data collection, access to official facilities including internet, documentation—printing, photocopying of tools etc.) will be borne by the National consultant and should be included in the proposed cost. The Lead Consultant shall be responsible for timely delivery of acceptable quality reports (Inception and Final), the draft report audit trail, and a record of the Evaluation Reference Group.

**Requirements for Consultant(s)**

Individual consultants can apply for this consultancy. The consultant will have the responsibility for conducting the evaluation and writing the final Evaluation report, in collaboration with an International Consultant who will be the Lead consultant.

**Key specific requirements:**

* Masters’ degree in Environment or related discipline with extensive experience in monitoring and evaluations.
* Demonstrated experience of leading and conducting evaluations of development cooperation projects/programs (leading at least 2, conducting at least 5).
* Good experience with planning and conducting qualitative data collection, using semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions.
* A good understanding and knowledge of the Uganda Wetlands management sub-sector is desirable.
* Proven experience in successfully conducting evaluation with UNDP will be advantage.
* A demonstrated high level of professionalism and ability to work independently and in compliance with deadlines.
* Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
* Excellent spoken and written English.
* A good command of the local languages in the region is desirable.
* Good computer skills.

In line with ADA and UNDP programming, the evaluation should be gender sensitive, participatory and promote a learning approach. The consultant/s should ensure that the assessment covers these essentials in the report.

**8.1 Administrative requirements for Individual consultants**

Individual consultants shall submit a detailed CV showing education background and experience in relation to similar assignments with clear references (names, phone contacts and email contact) in addition to the technical and financial proposals submitted.

**Specification for Submission of Offers**

Quantum system submissions of all required documents (Administrative, Technical, and financial proposals not later than 14th August 2024, 23:59 (Nairobi Time).

Any questions requiring clarification shall be sent to the email address above ([ug.procurement@undp.org](mailto:ug.procurement@undp.org) ) with clarification on Final Evaluation of RWACP (ADA-funded Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments in Eastern Uganda Project) in the subject line of the mail.

**Offers of interested bidders need to consist of:**

A technical offer of max. 8 pages, including:

1. Understanding of the assignment:
   * Presentation of the overall approach and including appropriate measures for stakeholder / beneficiary participation (health, safety considerations).
   * Work plan, including the division of tasks and the estimated working days per expert.
   * CVs of the all-team members (as annexes).
2. A Financial offer, including.

* Fees per expert incl. estimated number of working days.
* Travel expenses.
* Other expenses.

The bids will be scored based on the technical offer (70%) and the financial offer (30%).

Note on value added tax: With reference to Article 24.3 of the Austrian Development Agency General Terms and Conditions of Contract for Consultant Services and Similar Intellectual Services (hereinafter “General Terms”), the Contractor shall only be entitled to charge to the CA value added taxes incurred during the implementation of the Service Contract in the event that, at the time of the submission of the final financial statement, the Contractor can prove that such value added taxes are not recoverable by any means, and it is established that they are effectively borne by him/her.

To be considered in the selection process, candidates must not have been involved in the design, monitoring or implementation of the programme/project that is being evaluated.

Offers and any question(s) shall be addressed to tenders@undp.org

**Publication**

The Contractor agrees that the final product (or excerpts of it or parts of it) will be made public as per the ADA’s Guidelines for Programme and Projects Evaluations.

**Background documents**

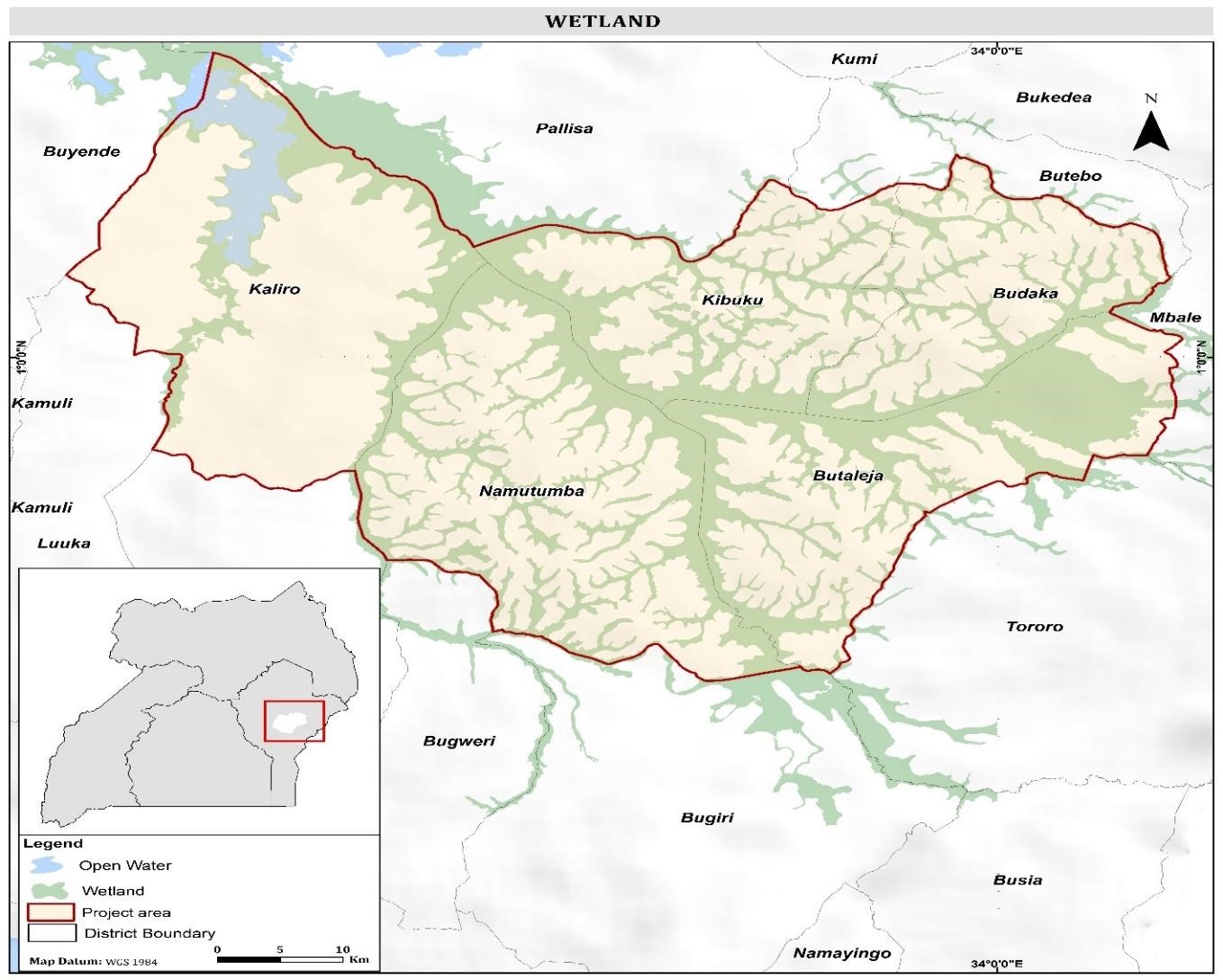
These (and other) documents relevant to the project will be shared with the selected consultant after signing the consultancy agreement and during the inception meeting. The list below just gives an indication as to the type of documents available for the desk review.

* Description of the project
* Grant Agreement
* Approved work plans
* Project progress reports for the entire project implementation period (as available)
* Project end line survey
* Mid-Term Evaluation report for RWACP
* Evaluation Policy of the Austrian Development Cooperation
* ADA Guidelines for Programme and Project Evaluation

## List of documents reviewed

1. ADA Guidelines for Programme and Project Evaluations (ADA 2020)
2. ADA 2021 –June 2022 Financial report
3. ADA –UNDP Wetlands Annual Progress Report (2021 – 2023)
4. Baseline Report of Complete Inventory for all existing water ponds (stocked, un-stocked and abandoned)
5. BRAC Spot Check Report covering the period 1 October 2021 to 31 December 2021
6. Constitution of the Republic of Uganda
7. Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy for the Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments in Eastern Uganda
8. ECOTRUST Spot Check Report covering the period 1 September 2021 to 31 December 2021
9. Evaluation Policy of the Austrian Development Cooperation
10. Final Report: Midterm Evaluation (MTE) of the project ‘Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments in Eastern Uganda’ (December 2023)
11. Joint Report On the Demarcation of a Section of Lake Nakuwa (Ramsar Site) Wetland in Kisinda and Namwiwa Subcounties, Kaliro District in Eastern Uganda
12. Uganda NDC
13. Mpologoma Catchment Mangement Plan
14. PMU Back to Office Report for ADA Project Visit
15. National Environnent Management Act 2019
16. National Climate Change Act 2021
17. Project Document: Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments Project in Eastern Uganda
18. Progress Report (Jan-Dec 2022)
19. Report On the Demarcation of Mpologoma-Kategere Wetland in Nandere Subcounty, Kibuku District Under the Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments in Eastern Region Project (February 2023)
20. Report of Community Based Trainers of TOT on VSLA Model (Jan 2022)
21. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), 2020
22. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS, 2014)
23. Uganda Catchment Management Planning Guidelines (June 2019)

## 9.8. Map of project sites



1. https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user\_upload/Dokumente/Evaluierung/Englisch/Evaluationpolicy.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.mwe.go.ug/sites/default/files/library/Uganda%20Wetlands%20Atlas%20Volume%20II_Popular%20Version.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Final%20TNC%20Uganda.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://nema.go.ug/sites/all/themes/nema/docs/National%20Environment%20Act,%20No.%205%20of%202019.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp034> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/project/enhancing-resilience-of-communities-to-climate-change-through-catchment-based-integrated-management-of-water-and-related-resources-in-uganda/> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://ulii.org/akn/ug/act/statute/1995/constitution/eng@2018-01-05#chp_Fifteen__sec_237> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://nema.go.ug/sites/all/themes/nema/docs/National%20Environment%20Act,%20No.%205%20of%202019.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.mwe.go.ug/sites/default/files/library/Mpologoma%20CMP.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://media.ulii.org/media/legislation/75186/source_file/9c6b0e9cc5ea54f0/2021-nn.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-09/Updated%20NDC%20_Uganda_2022%20Final.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <https://mwe.go.ug/sites/default/files/library/UPDATED%20RAMSAR%20SITES%20IN%20UGANDA.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)