



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project (P173296)

Vulnerable and Marginalized Group Framework (VMGF)

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Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
1	INTRODUCTION
.....	10
1.1 Project Background Information	10
1.2 Project Components	10
1.2.1 Component 1: Strengthen Climate-Smart Agricultural Research, and Seed Systems (US\$ 45 million–IDA).....	10
1.2.2 Component 2: Promoting Adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture Practices and Value Chains (US\$190 million-IDA).....	12
1.3 Project Beneficiaries	15
1.4 Purpose and objectives of the VMGF	16
1.5 Justification for a Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups Framework	16
1.6 Approach and Methodology for Preparation of the VGMF	17
1.6.1 Review of existing literature	17
1.6.2 Stakeholder Consultation.....	17
2	UNDERSTANDING VMGs IN UGANDA
.....	20
2.1 Definition of Key Concepts	20
▪ Ethnic Minority Groups	21
▪ Marginalized Groups	21
▪ Vulnerable Groups	21
○ Recognizing VMGs in Uganda	22
▪ The Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups of Uganda	22
3	SOCIO-ECONOMIC BASELINE OF VMGS IN UGANDA
.....	24
High poverty levels in these communities caused by highly undependable climate, low produce and low market prices, for their produce even if the communities depend on farming.	24
Batwa: Batwa people face extreme poverty in their everyday life. Once known to live in the depths of the African forests as one of the oldest indigenous tribes in the continent, they now reside in town slums.	24
Tepeth: These Tepeth are mainly pastoralists and practice hunting. They rear some animals on the slopes but come.....	24
down to graze them. Although they rear livestock, they do not believe in selling their animals. Animals are kept mainly for milk and marriage. They were fruit gatherers and do not believe in cutting down trees. They harvested honey from the forests.	24
The IK and Benet just like the above groups experience food insecurity, limited access to basic social services, and poor economic and livelihood opportunities.....	24
3.1 Challenges Facing Vulnerable Groups.....	26

4	.....	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON THE VULNERABLE/MARGINALISED GROUPS	28
5	.	LEGAL, POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS IN UGANDA	31
5.1		Legal Framework.....	31
5.1.1		Uganda’s 1995 Constitution (amended 2005).....	31
5.1.2		Equal Opportunities Commission Act (2007).....	31
5.1.3		The Workers’ Compensation Act, Cap 225	31
5.1.4		The Employment Act, 2006	31
5.1.5		Employment (Sexual Harassment) Regulations, 2012	32
5.1.6		The Local Government Act (1997)	32
5.2		The Policy Framework.....	32
5.3.1		National Policy for Older Persons (2009).....	32
5.3.2		Uganda Land Policy (2013).....	32
5.3.3		The Uganda Vision 2040	33
5.3.4		National Development Plan III	33
5.3.5		The Equal Opportunities Policy, 2006	33
5.3.6		The Uganda Gender Policy, 2007	33
5.3.7		The Uganda National Culture Policy (2006)	34
5.3.8		The National Policy on Elimination of Gender Based Violence (2016) (GBV) in Uganda	34
5.3.9		National Child Labour Policy, 2006	34
5.3.10		The National Equal Opportunities Policy 2006	34
5.3.11		The National Land Use Policy	34
5.3.12		The National Gender Policy, 1997	35
5.3.13		National Policy on HIV/AIDS and the world of work, 2007:	35
5.3.14		National Policy for Older Persons (2009)	35
5.3		..... Institutional Framework	35
5.4		..... International Treaties and Commitments on Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups	37
5.5		..... The World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework, 2018	37
6		..... VULNERABLE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS AND CONTENTS OF A VULNERABLE GROUP PLAN	40
6.1		Contents of the Plan.....	40
7		..... STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	42
8.1		Stakeholder Identification and mapping.....	42

8.2	Stakeholder Consultation	42
8.3	Stakeholder Engagement during Design and Implementation	44
8.4	Preliminary Stakeholder Consultations	45
9	.....ORGANIZATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF VMGF	50
10	.....MONITORING AND REPORTING MECHANISM	52
10.1	Reporting Mechanisms.....	52
10.2	Indicators for the implementation of the Plan and Framework	52
10.3	Participatory Impact Monitoring (PIM)	53
11	.....DISCLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR VMGF	53
11.1	Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Plan	53
11.2	Disclosure	54
12	.....GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM	55
12.1	Objectives.....	55
12.2	Grievance Redress Mechanism Composition.....	55
12.3	Grievance Log Documentation and Recording.....	57
12.4	Monitoring Complaints	57
12.5	Capacity Building for the Grievances Management Committees.....	58
12.6	World Bank Redress Service	58
13	.....VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED GROUP MANAGEMENT PLAN	59
13.1	GUIDELINES	59
13.2	Steps in Preparation of the VMGP	59
	Determining the Presence of VMG	59
	Plan for Social Assessment for VMGs.....	60
14	.....BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VMGF	60
	References	62
10	.....ANNEXES	63
10.1	ANNEX I: STAKEHOLDER VIEWS	63
10.2	ANNEX 2: GRIEVANCE LOG AND RESOLUTION FORM.....	81

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1-1: Stakeholders consulted and mode of engagement	18
Table 8-1: FPIC Process for Vulnerable/Marginalized Groups	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 9-1: Vulnerable /Marginalized Groups Stakeholders Engagement Process Matrix	43
Table 9-2: Summary of stakeholder views related to VMGs	46
Table 10-1: Roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the VMGF	50
Table 11-1: Indicators for monitoring the implementation of the VMGF	53

ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Insemination
BMCT	Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust
BRACED	Building Resilience and Adaptation of Climate Extremes and Disasters
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CDD	Community Driven Development
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
E&S	Environment and Social
ESF	Environment and Social Framework
ESIA	Environment and Social Impact Assessment
ESS	Environment and Social Safeguard
EWS	Early Warning System
FDG	Focused Group Discussion
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GHG	Green House Gas
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HH	Households
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
ILO	International Labor Organization
IWGIA	International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs
LIPW	Labour Intensive Public Works
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
MEBIO	Mt. Elgon Benet Indigenous Ogiek Group
MIS	Management Information Systems
MRGI	Minority Rights Group International
MRV	Monitoring Reporting and Verification
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PAP	Project Affected Person
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PSVGP	Project Specific Vulnerable Groups Plan
PWD	People with Disabilities
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SWC	Soil and Water Conservation
TIMPS	Technology Innovations and Management Practices
UCSATP	Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project
UOBDIUM	United Organization for Batwa Development in Uganda
UNMA	Uganda National Meteorological Authority
VA	Vulnerability Assessment
VAC	Violence Against Children
VDPA	Vienna Declaration and Program of Action
VGs	Vulnerable Groups
VMGs	Vulnerable & Marginalized Groups
VMP	Vulnerable & Marginalized People
VMPP	Vulnerability Marginalized People's Plan
VMPPF	Vulnerable and Marginalized People's Planning Framework

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project background

The Government of Uganda, through its Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), is currently preparing the Vulnerable and Marginalized Group Framework (VMGF), in collaboration with the World Bank; under the Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation (UCSAT) Project. The VMGF project intends to reverse the effects of climate change and sustainably, increase agricultural productivity and house hold incomes while enhancing resilience to shocks through addressing the primary drivers of poverty in the northern and eastern regions of Uganda. The target are the most vulnerable and marginalised communities with low productivity and who engage in low value economic activity that make them more vulnerable to climate change shocks.

PROPOSED PDO/ RESULTS

Proposed Project Development Objective(s)

To increase productivity and marketed volumes of selected climate smart value chains and enhance resilience of beneficiaries in the project area.

Project Components

Overall, the project seeks to increase productivity and marketed volumes of selected climate smart value chains and enhance resilience of beneficiaries in the project areas and it consists of five components:

- a. Promoting Adoption of Climate Smart Agricultural Practices and Value Chains,
- b. Strengthening Climate-Smart Agricultural Research and Seed Systems;
- c. Strengthening Agro-climatic Monitoring and Information Systems;
- d. Support to Refugee and Host Communities; and
- e. Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Component 1. Strengthen Climate-Smart Agricultural Research, and Seed Systems (US\$ 45 million – IDA). This component will support the development, adaptation, and validation for dissemination of context specific CSA TIMPs to target beneficiaries, and to develop sustainable seed production, distribution, and marketing systems.

Sub-component 1.1: Planning and Institutional Strengthening for Development and Dissemination of CSA TIMPs and weather advisories (US\$ 5m –IDA): This sub-component will support strengthening the ZARDIs technical and institutional capacity to deliver CSA TIMPs, and support development of sustainable seed, breeding stock, and fingerling delivery systems.

Subcomponent 1.2: Supporting Climate-Smart Agricultural Research and Innovations (US\$25 million – IDA): This subcomponent will finance the adaptation, validation, and dissemination of context-specific Technologies Innovations and Management Practices (TIMPs) that are climate-smart to sustainably increase productivity and incomes.

Sub-component 1.3: Building Competitive and Sustainable Seed Systems (US\$15 million–IDA): The project will facilitate partnerships between the National Agriculture Research System, the private sector, and farmer organizations to multiply seeds and breeds, of climate smart crops, livestock, fish, and poultry as the case will be.

Sub-component 1.4: Strengthening Agro-Climatic Monitoring and Information Systems (US\$ 35 million– IDA): The objective of this component is to strengthen climate risk management through improved prediction, response, and planning capacity of national and local institutions and communities.

Component 2: Promoting Adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture Practices and Value Chains (US\$190 million-IDA): The component will support investments to promote agricultural productivity, resilience, and incomes through adoption of climate smart agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices, and

sustainable land management (SLM) practices as well as promotion of climate smart gender and refugee sensitive value chains, post-harvest handling/management, and market access.

Sub-Component 2.1. Building and strengthening institutional capacity for productivity enhancement and resilience, and for promotion of climate smart value chains, and service delivery (US\$45 million-IDA): Transformation of the agriculture sector from primarily a low output/low returns subsistence sector into a viable high output/high return market-oriented sector will require investments into mind-set change for all key stakeholders in the value chain.

Sub-Component 2.2. Productivity Enhancement and Resilience Investments (US\$80 million-IDA): The sub-component will provide community level investments to promote up-scaling and adoption of Technologies, Innovations and Management Practices (TIMPs) for productivity enhancement, resilience, and sustainability in selected priority value chains.

Sub-Component 2.3: Investments in market development for Climate-smart Value chains (US\$65 million – IDA): The objective of this sub-component is to improve access to remunerative markets through increased access to post-harvest handling, storage, value addition and market access services and infrastructure by higher level producer associations (PA) established under sub-component 2.1.

Component 3: Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (US\$30 million – IDA). This component will support the operational expenditures related to the management and the monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Approach and Methodology in VGMF Preparation

The preparation of this VGMF largely constituted a review of legal and policy documents relevant to VMGs in Uganda as well as a deeper review of existing baseline information and literature was conducted. Documents that were reviewed to familiarize and gain deeper understand of issues related to the vulnerable and marginalized groups with regard to the project were:

- a) The World Bank Environmental and Social Framework 2017 Washington DC
- b) UCSAT project Concept Note
- c) Relevant National Laws, Policies and Constitution
- d) National Development Plan (NDP 2010-2014)
- e) The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda
- f) The Equal Opportunity Act (2007)
- g) Uganda Bureau of Statistic (UBoS) Household Data
- h) Relevant project reports on vulnerability and marginalized groups

Specifically, for this VGMF, engagements with IK representative and Coordinator CSOs working with Batwa were held on 19th and 20th April 2022 respectively (Table 1). The purpose of engaging them was to get their views and seek broad stakeholder support for the UCSAT project. The views from the consultations were recorded, analysed and appropriate measures recommended as part of the VGMF. A summary of the views about the project and responses is provided under section 9 on stakeholder consultation.

Policy framework supporting Vulnerable Groups

The government of Uganda has no specialised policy or legislation in favour of Vulnerable Groups. Nonetheless, despite having subscribed to the UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, it has not prepared any policy or legislation to specifically favour them. The implementation of UCSAT will benefit not only from a diversity of national policies and legislations that reflect on the interests of the indigenous people as described below but also from the backing offered by the new ESS7. The VMPP has been prepared in line with the following national policies and legislations and international best practices:

- Uganda's 1995 Constitution (amended 2005)
- Equal Opportunities Commission Act (2007)
- Uganda Land Policy (2013)
- The National Environment Management Act (2019)
- National Policy for Older Persons (2009)

- The World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background Information

Uganda is one of the least adapted countries to climate change where the agriculture sector is heavily dependent on rain-fed agriculture. Climate Shocks will continue to have significant direct and indirect impacts on agricultural productivity and incomes. It is predicted that Uganda will continue to experience rising temperatures, which will increase to more than 20oC by 2030. Further, the growing variability of inter-annual rainfall is projected to continue and is likely to cause an increase in rainfall during the dry season as well as increase frequency and intensity of extreme events such as floods and landslides, all of which contribute to worsening land degradation.

There is an urgent need to shift the way land, water, soil, animal, fish and plant resources are managed to build resilience to climatic shocks and sustainably increase productivity and incomes in the most efficient, effective, and equitable manner. This would require substantial investments into promoting uptake of existing Technologies, Innovations and Management Practices (TIMPs) of select value chains, promoting multiplication and/or replication of TIMPs at the user level to address potential supply constraints, promoting alternative sources of livelihoods, facilitating linkages with private sector actors, enhancing access and uptake of climate, addressing market and information asymmetries as well as coordination and institutional gaps that may exist.

The proposed Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project interventions will target addressing the primary drivers of poverty in the north-eastern dry lands (Karamoja); north-eastern savannah grasslands covering areas of east Acholi and northern Lango; Kyoga plains in areas of SE Lango, Teso, Bukedi and northern Busoga sub-regions; western highlands, southern Highlands, Southern drylands, lake Albert crescent and eastern areas mainly Elgon highlands sub-regions of Bugisu and Sebei. These sub-regions and agro-ecological zones are targeted because of increasing and high levels of poverty, and land and natural resource degradation; as well as low value production, which are anchored in low productivity from engaging in low value economic activities making communities more vulnerable to climate change shocks. The project will support investments in technology and market-driven productivity increases in climate smart value chains. These investments will contribute to reversing the effects of climate change thereby sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and household incomes while enhancing resilience to climatic shocks.

Overall, the project seeks to increase productivity and marketed volumes of selected climate smart value chains and enhance resilience of beneficiaries in the project areas and it consists of five components:

- f. Promoting Adoption of Climate Smart Agricultural Practices and Value Chains,
- g. Strengthening Climate-Smart Agricultural Research and Seed Systems;
- h. Strengthening Agro-climatic Monitoring and Information Systems;
- i. Support to Refugee and Host Communities; and
- j. Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

1.2 Project Components

The project consists of five (5) components:(i) Strengthening Climate Smart Agricultural Research, Seed and Agro-Climatic Information Systems; (ii) Promoting Adoption of Climate Smart Agricultural Technologies and Practices; (iii) Investments in Market Development and Linkages to Selected Value Chains; (iv) Contingency Emergency Response, and (v) Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning. The project will have the following components:

1.2.1 Component 1: Strengthen Climate-Smart Agricultural Research, and Seed Systems (US\$ 45 million–IDA).

This component will support the development, validation, packaging, dissemination and adoption of context-specific CSA Technologies, Innovations & Management Practices (TIMPs) to target

beneficiaries. It will facilitate investments to develop sustainable seed production, and marketing systems. It will enhance climate risk management to improve prediction of, response to, and planning capacity for climate change management at the national, local and community levels. The component will also strengthen technical and institutional capacity to deliver technologies and support the development of the seed delivery systems.

Sub-component 1.1. Supporting Climate-Smart Agricultural Research and Innovations (US\$8.8 million – IDA). This subcomponent will finance the adaptation, validation, and dissemination of context-specific CSA TIMPs that will be developed and validated through demand-driven adaptive research and technology incubation approaches. More specifically, this sub-component will finance collaborative research programs to develop and promote CSA TIMPs. Under the sub-component, the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) will administer a Competitive Research Grant (CRG) scheme to finance adaptive and applied research activities for development of demanded CSA TIMPs and emerging technology needs. Funding will be provided through two critical windows: Window 1 - to support adaptation of generic technologies to various agro-ecologies and needs; and Window 2 - to support research addressing emerging climate change challenges for which technologies may not be readily available for uptake and adaptation. Research will be conducted through partnerships with the private sector, academia, and various players in the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) and will include TIMPs demanded by farmers from Refugee Hosting Districts (RHDs). The subcomponent will also support training of MSC and PhD scientist to build critical capacity for Climate Smart Agriculture research.

Sub-component 1.2: Building Competitive and Sustainable Seed Systems (US\$12.9 million – IDA; US\$1 million – WHR). This sub-component will facilitate partnerships between the National Agriculture Research System, the private sector, and farmer organizations to multiply seeds, planting materials and stocking materials that are climate smart. Support will be provided for capacity building of farmers and farmer organizations to multiply seeds and stocking materials, establish out-grower schemes in the community; and directly contract with private sector multipliers. The sub-component will finance crop, livestock, and aquaculture breeding programs; and promote private sector and community (farmers) involvement in production and distribution of commercial seed. Interventions will be aimed at strengthening seed, breed, and fingerling production systems including strengthening decentralized Artificial Insemination (AI) services by supporting service providers to acquire infrastructure, equipment, [technology](#), and technical skills for seed production. Quality assurance of seeds and breeds will be undertaken by the relevant MAAIF institutions through established channels. Financial support will be provided through matching grants depending on the seed and breed actors. Guidelines for matching grants will be developed as part of the Project Implementation Manual (PIM).

Sub-component 1.3. Strengthening Agro-Climate Monitoring and Information Systems (US\$12.6 million-IDA). The sub-component will finance the production, transmission and timely delivery of accurate weather data and information. It will support the strengthening of agro-weather forecasting and its dissemination tools through: (a) improving agro-meteorological forecasting and monitoring; (b) using big data to develop a climate-smart, agro-weather information system and advisories; and (c) building the technical capacity for agro-meteorological observation and forecasting, and real time delivery of weather information and advisories to target farmers including refugees and host communities. The sub-component will finance: (i) establishment of functional automated weather stations in locations where gaps have been identified; (ii) partnerships with local and international institutions to support climate information development using global data sources such as satellite data; (iii) developing agroclimatic and climate smart digital tools to facilitate access to early warning, agroclimatic, and pest and disease surveillance information; (iv) establishment of soil organic carbon monitoring reporting and verification of Greenhouse Gas Removals including lab analysis for tracking application, adoption and impact of TIMPs; and (v) enhancement of UNMA's capacity in agro-met data collection, management, analysis and dissemination.

Sub-component 1.4. Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Development and Dissemination of CSA TIMPs (US\$31.3 million – IDA; US\$1.3 million – WHR). This sub-component will support strengthening technical and institutional capacity of the ZARDIs and the Animal Genetic Resources Centers (ANGRCs) to deliver CSA TIMPs, and support development of sustainable climate smart seed delivery systems to all the project districts including RHDs. Under technical capacity strengthening the sub-component will finance: (a) short-term training and re-tooling of staff (mainly from ZARDIs) in CSA research; (b) hiring interns in specialized areas to support the existing scientific staff at ZARDIs; (c) strengthening research-extension linkage through specified training of district subject matter specialists (SMSs) and improving knowledge management systems; and (d) training of district extension staff, and farmer producer organizations on use of weather and climate information and advisories. Institutional capacity building activities will finance the refurbishment and/or upgrading of selected facilities and infrastructure such as communication equipment, animal experimental structures, seed stores, small seed processing plants and fish fingerling production structures. Financing will be provided for upgrading and operationalizing the Weather Information Dissemination System (WIDS) using ICT platforms and provisions made for laboratory and value addition equipment, motor vehicles, and farm machinery for selected institutions.

1.2.2 Component 2: Promoting Adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture Technologies and Practices (US\$190 million-IDA).

The component will support investments in and adoption of climate smart agriculture (CSA) technologies, innovations, and management practices (TIMPs), including sustainable land management (SLM) practices for improved resilience, agricultural productivity, and incomes in project areas.

Sub-Component 2.1. Productivity Enhancement and Resilience Investments for income generation (US\$168 million – IDA; US\$20 million - WHR).

This sub-component will finance CSA investments¹ in the form of community micro-projects identified through participatory processes, and strategic district level sub-projects to help beneficiaries achieve the triple wins of increased productivity, enhanced resilience, and reduced GHG emissions. Financing will cover project districts including Refugee Hosting Districts (RHDs). To finance these investments, matching grants will be provided through two windows: (i) community-level investments to finance micro-projects; (ii) district-level investments to finance strategic larger sub-projects that benefit several sub-counties and communities.

The sub-component will provide incentives at the district level to promote adoption of climate smart sustainable land management (SLM) technologies and practices on both communally and privately owned lands. The sub-component will provide an incentive to small-holder farmers in their communities, to participate in the construction of recommended soil and water conservation (SWC) structures such as terraces, contour bunds, and water retention ditches, restoration of degraded wetlands, riverbanks, and lakeshores stabilization work on communally owned land. The sub-component will provide payments for Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW) mainly during the agricultural off-season, to catalyse the promotion and adoption of appropriate SLM technologies. Communities participating in the LIPW will be encouraged to save some of the resources earned from the LIPW contracts in their group savings. They will be trained in the management of village revolving funds (VRFs) to be used in the sustainable maintenance of the established SLM structures. The sub-component will also provide financial incentives to farmers whose private lands constitute a large part of the watershed, that construct and adopt recommended SLM practices. This will enable implementation of a holistic and integrated

watershed management approach. All promoted SLM practices will be applied to the selected value chains to ensure sustainable productivity increases. Mechanization and irrigation services to enhance commercial production as well as weather information education will also be provided to target beneficiaries through appropriate financing arrangements. Non-state actors including private sector service providers will be contracted to provide services that the public extension system is not well placed to provide.

Sub-component 2.2: Productivity enhancement and resilience for food and nutrition security in refugee settlements (US\$5 million – WHR). The sub-component will support refugees to access TIMPs for their selected crops, livestock including poultry and aquaculture including soil and water management, and agroforestry. Selected commodities will primarily focus on addressing food and nutrition requirements for refugee settlements given the critical challenges of food shortages and reduced funding to refugee settlements. A nutrition grant will be provided for investments in FGs micro-projects such as sourcing for foundation technologies for group multiplication and demonstrations. Given the poor food and nutrition status of especially the under 5-year-olds in the refugee camps, this subcomponent shall scale up existing food systems-based approaches for dietary diversity e.g., mainstreaming backyard/kitchen gardens for production of micronutrient-rich foods, adoption of micronutrient rich cultivars like iron rich beans, orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, and production and consumption of Vitamin C rich foods. The production of such micro-nutrient foods by CIGs in refugee hosting districts for sale and supply to refugee settlements will also be supported.

Under the sub-component financing will be provided to partner organizations that support nutrition education to refugees and host communities with particular emphasis on children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. Funding will be provided to POs to enhance information and knowledge management on food and nutrition education in refugee settlements. Secondary support will be provided through a matching grant to organized refugee farmer groups to access quality inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, micro-irrigation kits and mechanization among others, to enable them increase productivity of the selected value chains. Where necessary, this support would include facilitating refugee households' access to financial services. At production level, appropriate mechanization and water for agricultural production technologies will be provided on a case-by-case basis. Refugee FGs will be supported through TA, to manage an internal savings mobilization scheme, which will double as revolving fund scheme. The scheme will be a source of financing for individual farmers' needs including matching the micro-project grant for purchase of production inputs, equipment, and application of CSA TIMPs.

Sub-Component 2.3. Building institutional capacity for productivity enhancement, resilience, and strengthening service delivery (US\$4 million-IDA; US\$ 7.5 million - WHR). This sub-component will build institutional capacity at the district, sub-county, parish, and community levels to plan, implement, manage, and monitor sub-county/district sub-projects and community micro-projects in project area. Specifically, the sub-component will invest in: (a) building the capacity of districts, sub-counties in CSA planning and prioritization of needs and mobilizing and organizing farmer groups and aggregating them into higher level institutions (Producer Associations and Producer Organizations); (b) strengthening the capacity of districts and sub-counties to deliver agricultural extension services and oversee implementation of sub-projects; and (c) contracting of non-state actors to support community mobilization and strengthening of farmer and community institutions in planning and implementation of micro-projects. The Community Driven Development (CDD) approach will be used to enable the project to re-orient community mindset towards climate change mitigation and adaptation for ecosystem protection and restoration, and

to manage technology uptake and promotion. The sub-component will also facilitate the provision of information, knowledge and advice through farmer field schools and lead farmers established and selected for the purpose of last mile service delivery.

Institutional capacity building and strengthening in refugee settlements and RHDs will be based on existing institutions established in refugee settlements and RHDs and/or modified to best suit promotion of CSA TIMPs. Relations between farmer institutions in refugee settlements and in host communities will be strengthened. Financing will support (i) capacity building of common interest farmer groups in refugee settlements and in host communities for increased productivity and resilience; (ii) strengthening relations between farmer institutions in refugee settlements and in host communities for efficient project implementation; (iii) strengthening capacity of the Refugee Hosting Districts (RHDs) local governments as well as humanitarian and development agencies in provision of agricultural extension services; (iv) recruitment of community-based facilitators (CBFs) in refugee settlements and host communities to provide last mile service delivery to beneficiaries; (v) support the development of Agricultural settlement land management plans by MAAIF and OPM for each RHD with input from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); and (vi) developing partnerships between refugees and host communities for land utilization to increase access to land for agricultural production.

a.

1.2.3 Component 3: investments in market development and linkages for selected value chains).

The objective of this component is to improve access to remunerative markets through increased access to harvesting, post-harvest handling, storage, value addition, and market linkage services, equipment, and infrastructure by higher-level institutions (Producer Associations and Producer Organizations (POs) established under sub-component 2.3.

Sub-component 3.1: Investments in Market development and linkages for selected value chains for non-refugee districts (US\$44 million – IDA). The project will support farmers who are not refugees through investments in (i) Strengthening the institutional capacity of POs for demand articulation, business planning and market access; (ii) Business Development Services which include (i) strengthening of the POs in governance; and managerial and technical capacity; (ii) technical skills in entrepreneurship and business plan development; (iii) financial literacy and linkage to the formal financial sector; (iv) negotiation; and (v) partnership development and networking through Productive Alliances (PAs) with potential off-takers and other value chain stakeholders. Farmers in POs will receive services through Technical Assistance (TA) by the existing pluralistic agricultural extension system and private service providers and through Matching grants. Financing will also be provided for: (iii) Clean energy equipment, machinery and infrastructure for harvesting, post-harvest management and value addition to minimize losses, improve the quality and shelf-life of produce under a cost-sharing mechanism; (iv) Promoting market linkages to enable the production generated to access remunerative markets and (v) investments into market infrastructure and access roads, where such investments significantly improve enterprise viability and reduce commodity/product losses and where a clear need has been established. This will improve efficiency, scale up operations and increase the profitability of enterprises while reducing the carbon footprint of the agri-food value chain. The project will also finance the rehabilitation of infrastructure for specific road bottlenecks and trouble spots on rural roads, which constrain access to physical input and produce markets.

Sub-component 3.2: Investments in Market development for selected value chains for refugees and host communities (US\$13.3 million – WHR). The sub-component will provide the following services (i) Skills development for improved service delivery by selected youth; and district and sub-county local

government extension staff; and (ii) Investments in clean-energy equipment, machinery, and infrastructure for harvesting, post-harvest, value addition to minimize losses, improve the quality and shelf-life of produce and market access facilities including rehabilitation of existing road chokes, where a clear need has been established.

1.2.4 Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response).

This zero-cost component will finance eligible expenditures under the Immediate Response Mechanism (IRM) in case of natural or man-made crises or disasters such as severe droughts, floods, specific pest and disease outbreaks, severe economic shocks, or other crises and emergencies that may occur in Uganda. This contingency facility can be triggered through formal notification of an emergency by the relevant government authority and upon a formal request from the Government to the World Bank through the MoFPED. In such cases, funds from other project components will be reallocated to finance emergency response expenditures to meet agricultural crises and emergency needs. The emergency response would include mitigation, recovery, and reconstruction following the crisis and disasters. Implementation of this subcomponent will follow a detailed Contingent Emergency Response Implementation Plan (CERIP) satisfactory to the World Bank that will be prepared for each Eligible Crisis of Emergency.

1.2.5 Component 5: Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.

This component will support the operational expenditures related to the management and the monitoring and evaluation of the project, including E&S management. Specifically, the subcomponent will support: (i) Building the technical capacity of MAAIF staff and project stakeholders on World Bank Environment and Social standards applicable to the project; (ii) stakeholder engagements, preparation and implementation of site specific instruments and tools including mainstreaming of ESHS aspects in other sector operations (iii) Strengthening ESHS compliance monitoring and supervision; (iv) Enhancing MAAIF's safeguards management infrastructure such as E-ESHS safeguards tracking system, hazardous waste disposal facilities and analytical monitoring equipment (such as Liquid chromatography mass spectrometer (LCMS), High performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), accessory equipment, glass wares, standards and reagents for testing the quality of pesticides, portable test kits for rapid detection of fake fertilizers among others); (v) Strengthening Grievance Redress Mechanism structures, (vi) Acquisition of ESHS safeguards statutory permits and certificates in respect of project components, (vii) Strengthening gender mainstreaming aspects in the project including SEA/GBV and (viii) Strengthening stakeholder, institutional participation, and mindset change including protection of vulnerable groups.

1.3 Project Beneficiaries

The project will be implemented in 69 districts and will directly benefit about 2,850,000 individuals. Given that project intervention areas will also cover refugee hosting districts, about 50,000 refugees are expected to directly benefit from project activities bringing the total number of direct beneficiaries to about 2.9 million. The direct beneficiaries of the project are the users of land and its resources including crop, livestock and fish farmers, pastoralists, forest users, refugees and their host communities defined by their agro-ecologies, farming systems, socio-economic factors, geopolitics, and land tenure. Agro-ecological zones—_included are: (i) North-Eastern Dry Lands (Karamoja); (ii) North-Eastern Savannah Grasslands (East Acholi and Northern Lango); (iii) Kyoga Plains (SE Lango, Teso, Bukedi and northern Busoga); Western highlands, southern Highlands, Southern drylands, lake Albert crescent and (iv) Eastern (Elgon) Highlands (Bugisu and Sebei). These sub-regions and agro-ecological zones are targeted because of increasing and high levels of poverty, and land and natural resource degradation; as well as low value production. The project will target individuals (smallholder and large-scale farmers) within farmer groups, cooperatives, and self-help groups. The project will also target the poor and vulnerable households as well as marginalized groups such as youth and women.

Priority and attention shall be given to youth engagement with at least 40 percent of direct beneficiaries expected to be women. The indirect beneficiaries are the household members of the project participants and the users of the rehabilitated lands and sustainably managed natural resources that have not benefited directly from the project but are benefitting indirectly from project activities. It is expected that an additional 1,500,000 individuals will indirectly benefit from project activities.

1.4 Purpose and objectives of the VMGF

This VMGF sets out principles for management of risks that may be occasioned to Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups (VMGs) during implementation of the UCSAT project and has undertaken a social assessment to identify the risks and propose mitigation measures; Establish the requirements of ESS7, organizational arrangements, and design criteria to be applied to subprojects or project components required during project implementation when VMGs may be present in, or have collective attachment to, the project areas. Following identification of the subproject or individual project components and confirmation that VMGs are present in or have collective attachment to the project area, a specific plan, proportionate to potential risks and impacts, shall be prepared. Project activities that may affect VMGS do not commence until such specific plans are finalized and approved by the Bank.

The objectives of VGMF are:

- a. To provide a framework for integration of aspects of vulnerable and marginalized groups in all stages of the project.
- b. To provide arrangements for avoiding potentially adverse impact on VMGs throughout the implementation of the project; where avoidance is not feasible, minimize, mitigate and compensate such effects.
- c. To ensure that VMGs receive social and economic benefits that are culturally appropriate as well as gender sensitive.
- d. To provide procedures for ensuring full participation of VMGs in the entire project cycle.
- e. To propose interventions and set out the roles of different stakeholders and actors in the implementation of the project towards addressing emerging negative impact.
- f. To undertake free, prior and informed consent where required and recognize, respect and preserve the culture, knowledge and practices of VGs as well as providing an opportunity to adapt to changing conditions in an acceptable manner and timeframe. FPIC is not required under this project since the proposed project will NOT involve loss of, alienation from or exploitation of their land and access to natural and cultural resources, and will not cause relocation of the VGs.

1.5 Justification for a Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups Framework

This framework is necessary as it guides in the development of the Vulnerable Groups Plan. It is developed when a proposed project design is yet to be finalised and it is not possible to identify all the impacts. Vulnerable Groups in Uganda, according to ESS7 include traditional hunters and gathers' communities of: Batwa, also known as Twa or Pigmies who live primarily in south-western Uganda; Ik, who live on the edge of the Karamoja - Turkana region along the Uganda - Kenya border in Kaabong district, Karamoja; Benet, also known as Ndorobos, are 20,000 in number and live in Kween district on the margins of and inaccessible parts on the slopes of Mt. Elgon in the north-eastern part of Uganda, and Tepeth, also referred to as the Soo. They live in Mount Moroto and neighbour the Turkana and the Pokot of Kenya. They are also said to have been the original people of Moroto but due to ethnic wars with the Karimojong they were driven up the top of mount Moroto.

This document has been developed as VGMF because the specific sub projects and their locations are not yet known at this stage of project preparation. At project implementation stage, each sub project shall develop the respective VGM plans.

It is envisioned that the implementation of UCSAT sub projects will have some positive impacts that should be enhanced while the negative environmental and social impacts on the Vulnerable and Marginalized groups shall be avoided, minimized or mitigated at the implementation stage. And as

such, MAAIF has prepared a Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups Framework (VMGF). The framework provides a layout of anticipated benefits of the project, perceived risks on socio-economic livelihoods and social set up of the VMGs and strategies to enhance the benefits and avoid, minimize or mitigate the risks.

The VMGF has been prepared in line with the Environmental and Social Standard 7 (ESS7) of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (2018) and relevant Ugandan social development policies and laws.

This VMGF will be used:

- a. In conjunction with the ESMF and RPF, address any adverse impacts on the livelihoods of VMGs and/or their assets or resources;
- b. Propose measures to ensure that the VMGs have access to culturally appropriate benefits from relevant project interventions, and will thus contribute to the achievement of the mandate of the Equal Opportunities; and
- c. Target the indigenous groups that are considered as ethnic minorities, internationally considered as indigenous peoples and these include the Batwa, Benet, Tepeth and Ik.

1.6 Approach and Methodology for Preparation of the VMGF

1.6.1 Review of existing literature

The preparation of this VMGF largely constituted a review of legal and policy documents relevant to VMGs in Uganda as well as a deeper review of existing baseline information and literature was conducted. Documents that were reviewed to familiarize and gain deeper understand of issues related to the vulnerable and marginalized groups with regard to the project were:

- a. The World Bank Environmental and Social Framework 2017 Washington DC
- b. UCSAT project Concept Note
- c. Relevant National Laws, Policies and Constitution
- d. National Development Plan (NDP 2010-2014)
- e. The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda
- f. The Equal Opportunity Act (2007)
- g. Uganda Bureau of Statistic (UBoS) Household Data
- h. Relevant project reports on vulnerability and marginalized groups

1.6.2 Stakeholder Consultation

ESS 10 recognizes the importance of inclusive and meaningful engagement between the Borrower and project stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice. Effective stakeholder engagement can improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance, and make a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation. In keeping with the requirements of ESS10, MAAIF took cognizance of the existing World Bank (March 2020) and Ministry of health 2020 guidelines in relation to physical meetings, and used online platforms such as Email exchanges to conduct extensive, email correspondences as well as telephone-based consultations.

Stakeholder consultations on the instruments including the VMGF were carried out with MDAs, district, and sub-county officials and some farmer groups with an aim to identify perceived project impacts in relation to UCSAT project, and devise measures in the instruments for enhancing the positive impacts and mitigating negative impacts, as well as providing a platform for project stakeholders to air their views, concerns and recommendations for incorporation into the final instrument. The consultation period for the ESMF, SEF, RPF, and VMFG began on 6th January 2022 to 7th February 2022 (details of stakeholders met in the ESMF). Additional virtual meetings took place between 19th and 29th April 2022.

Specifically, for this VMGF, engagements with IK representative and Coordinator CSOs working with Batwa were held on 19th and 20th April 2022 respectively (Table 1). The purpose of engaging them was to get their views and seek broad stakeholder support for the UCSAT project. The views from the consultations were recorded, analysed and appropriate measures recommended as part of the VMGF. A summary of the views about the project and responses is provided under section 9 on stakeholder consultation.

Table 1-1: Stakeholders consulted and mode of engagement

Name of person/ official met:	Gender		District	Organisation/ Company	Designation	Contact (Tel/email)	Date of Consultation
	M	F					
Thomas Lemu	√		Kabong	Kabong District Local Government	District Commercial Officer Kabong/ Ik Community Liaison Officer	077219999	19th 04 2022
Ms. Penninah Zaninka		√	Kabale	CSOs working with Batwa	Coordinator CSOs working with Batwa	0772660810	20th April 2022
Okwii David	√		Kampala	United Nations High Commission for Refugees-UNHCR	Programme Officer	0700818816	26th April 2022
James Bataze	√		Kampala	Uganda National Meteorological Authority-(UNMA)	Principal Officer	(0782103950/0704726166	27th April 2022
Josephine Apajo		√	Kampala	Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)-	Senior Compliance Officer	076285770	29th April 2022
James Ebitu, Ambrose Ssentongo	√		Kampala	Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development	Principal General Safety Inspector, Director Social Protection; Directorate of Social Protection	0756538396	28th April 2022

2 UNDERSTANDING VMGs IN UGANDA

2.1 Definition of Key Concepts

The World Bank in ESS7 Paragraph 6 defines indigenous people as a “distinct, vulnerable, social and cultural group possessing the following characteristics in varying degrees: (i) self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and recognition of this identity by others; (ii) collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area and to natural resources in these habitats and territories; (iii) customary cultural, economic, social or political institutions that are separate from those of the dominant society and culture; and (iv) an indigenous language, often different from the official language of the country or region.

Reviewed literature indicates that there is no universally acceptable definition of “Indigenous Peoples”. Indigenous Peoples are defined differently from one country to another by such terms as “Indigenous ethnic minorities,” “aboriginals,” “hill tribes,” “minority nationalities,” “scheduled tribes,” “first nations,” or “tribal groups.” In Uganda, the term “ethnic minorities” is used to refer to VMGs. For purposes of this framework, the World Bank’s criterion for identifying VMGs will be used to distinguish them from the 65 ethnic groups in Uganda: that is, those people who have historically suffered, and continue to suffer disempowerment and discrimination on economic, social and cultural grounds.

The term “Indigenous Peoples” is used in a generic sense to refer to a distinct social and cultural group possessing the following characteristics in varying degrees:

- a. Self-identification as members of a distinct cultural group and recognition of this identity by others.
- b. Collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories.
- c. Customary cultural, economic, social or political institutions that is distinct from those of the dominant society and cultures.
- d. A language, often different from the official language of the country or region.
- e. Generally vulnerable by their nature of life; the community they live in and highly susceptible to extinction.

It should be noted that the ESS7 contributes to poverty reduction and sustainable development by ensuring that projects supported by the World Bank enhance opportunities for Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities to participate in, and benefit from, the development process in ways that do not threaten their unique cultural identities and well-being. The ESS7 further recognizes that Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities have identities and aspirations that are distinct from mainstream groups in national societies and often are disadvantaged by traditional models of development. In many instances, they are among the most economically marginalized and vulnerable segments of the population. Their economic, social, and legal status frequently limits their capacity to defend their rights to, and interests in, social issues at hand and may restrict their ability to participate in and benefit from development projects. In some instances, they do not receive equitable access to project benefits, or benefits are not delivered in a form that is culturally appropriate, and they may not always be adequately consulted about the design or implementation of projects that would profoundly affect their lives or communities. This ESS7 therefore, recognizes that the roles of men and women in indigenous cultures are often different from those in the mainstream groups, and that women and children have frequently been marginalized both within their own communities and as a result of external developments, and may have specific needs. It should be noted that the situation of Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities varies from community to community and from region to region. The particular national and regional contexts and the different historical and cultural

backgrounds will therefore, form part of the Environmental and Social Assessment of the project. In this way, the assessment will be to support identification of measures to address concerns that project activities may exacerbate tensions between different ethnic or cultural groups. The following are the objectives of the ESS7 that should be taken into consideration during the project development and implementation.

Objectives of ESS7

- a. To ensure that the development process fosters full respect for the human rights, dignity, aspirations, identity, culture, and natural resource-based livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities;
- b. To avoid adverse impacts of projects on Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities, or when avoidance is not possible, to minimize, mitigate and/or compensate for such impacts;
- c. To promote sustainable development benefits and opportunities for Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities in a manner that is accessible, culturally appropriate and inclusive;
- d. To improve project design and promote local support by establishing and maintaining an ongoing relationship based on meaningful consultation with the Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities affected by a project throughout the project's life cycle;
- e. To obtain the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)³ of affected Indigenous Peoples/ Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities in the three circumstances described in this ESS, which are not relevant in this project (as explained under Section 1.4 above); and
- f. To recognize, respect and preserve the culture, knowledge, and practices of Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities, and to provide them with an opportunity to adapt to changing conditions in a manner and in a time-frame acceptable to them.

As such, although the Ugandan Constitution does not expressly recognize indigenous peoples it makes provision for addressing some of the negative effects arising from ethnic imbalances. The Constitution, in the section on National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy, provides that every effort shall be made to integrate all peoples while at the same time recognizing the existence of, amongst others, their ethnic, religious and cultural diversity. In this regard, the Constitution requires that everything necessary be done to promote a culture of co-operation, understanding, appreciation, tolerance and respect for each other's customs, traditions and beliefs.

▪ **Ethnic Minority Groups**

It is possible to argue endlessly about the meaning of the term 'minority' in the Ugandan context (and sub-Saharan Africa) and whether a particular group of individuals form a separate minority (MRG, 2001). Similarly, no definition of the term 'minority' has proved universally acceptable. However, the UN Human Rights Committee came up with a working definition as: "any disempowered group, regardless of its numerical size could be considered a minority" (Ibid).

▪ **Marginalized Groups**

The term "Marginalization" generally describes the overt actions or tendencies of human societies whereby those perceived as being without desirability or function are removed or excluded (i.e., are "marginalized") from the prevalent systems of protection and integration, so limiting their opportunities and means for survival.

▪ **Vulnerable Groups**

Vulnerability refers to the conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards. A vulnerable group is therefore a population with specific characteristics that put it at a higher risk of

falling into poverty than others living in project areas. Vulnerable groups thus include the elderly, disabled people, HIV/AIDS infected and affected individuals and households, women, and orphans and vulnerable children (girl child, street children, children from extremely poor households, HIV/AIDS infected and affected children, children with disabilities, children living with elderly or disabled parents, and children in paid employment). On average, the Karamoja sub region is recognized as vulnerable, marginalized and poor. Therefore, there are very little differences between the persons identified as vulnerable/marginalized and the entire population of the region.

○ **Recognizing VMGs in Uganda**

Uganda does not have an official definition of VMGs neither does it have a criterion for their identification. According to Uganda's 1995 Constitution, there are 65 ethnic groups referred to as its indigenous communities as from the date of 1st February 1926. Ethnic diversity plays a major role in shaping the behaviours and ways of life of people as their cultural and social life differ from one ethnic group to another. The term 'indigenous' as referred to in the Constitution is used to describe the different ethnic groups that have historically resided within Uganda's borders. This understanding differs markedly from the manner in which the term is used by international and regional organizations and by experts on VMGs' issues. Uganda uses ethnic minorities, to the exclusion of other factors, as the only method of identifying VMGs.

The African Commission on the 3rd periodic report (concluding observations) on the Republic of Uganda, observed that one of the factors restricting the enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR, 2009) is the apparent lack of political will to take measures to realize the rights of VMGs especially the Batwa, Ik, Tepeth and Benet as guaranteed under the Charter. The commission recommended that Uganda adopts measures to ensure the effective protection of the rights of VMGs especially of the Batwa people as guaranteed under the Charter by establishing laws that protect land rights and natural resources of VMGs (ibid). These groups are not recognized as Indigenous People (IPs) by the GoU which prefers to call them Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups or Ethnic Minorities.

▪ **The Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups of Uganda**

A number of ethnic minority groups in Uganda have been identified according to the World Bank's ESS7, on the identification of VMGs.

They include traditional hunters and gatherers' communities of:

- ❖ Batwa, also known as Twa or Pigmies who live primarily in south-western Uganda;
- ❖ Ik, who live on the edge of the Karamoja - Turkana region along the Uganda - Kenya border in Kaabong district, Karamoja;
- ❖ Benet, also known as Ndorobos, are 20,000 in number and live in Kween district on the margins of and inaccessible parts on the slopes of Mt. Elgon in the north-eastern part of Uganda, and
- ❖ Tepeth, also referred to as the Soo. They live in Mount Moroto and neighbour the Turkana and the Pokot of Kenya. They are also said to have been the original people of Moroto but due to ethnic wars with the Karimojong they were driven up the top of mount Moroto.

The VMGs of Uganda are commonly characterised by:

- ❖ Historical and continued suffering, disempowerment and discrimination on economic, social, cultural and political grounds;
- ❖ Reliance on their land and environment to sustain themselves both physically (in terms of food, fuel and habitat) and culturally;
- ❖ Threatened livelihoods mainly due to dwindling access to land and natural resources on which they depend as hunters and gatherers;
- ❖ Much lower health and education indicators than those of the dominant community, often due to difficult access. This means that they are particularly vulnerable to changes in their socio-economic and physical environments;

- ❖ Social exclusion, deprivation from mainstream government services, lack of participation in development processes that affect them, and in most cases uncertainty of land and natural resource tenure; and
- ❖ Their economic systems exist separately from that of the mainstream or dominant community, and tend to have minimal interaction (if any) with the socioeconomic and legal systems of national governments;

Some of the key factors that continue to affect and maintain the marginalization of VMGs communities include:

- a. Dispossession of ancestral lands including lack of access and/or no control or legal recognition of such land and other natural resources;
- b. A focus on modern agriculture versus preservation of livelihoods of hunter and gatherers and pastoralist groups;
- c. Limited access to education, resulting in inability to compete for employment opportunities;
- d. Ignorance and limited access to information on government programs and basic entitlements
- e. Limited access to agricultural and other social services such as health, etc;
- f. Unequal development of health care and other social infrastructure;
- g. Limited access to justice and increased conflict and a deteriorating security situation and recurrent inter-ethnic conflicts; and
- h. Limited access to livelihoods, financial, banking and credit facilities.

3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC BASELINE OF VMGS IN UGANDA

As earlier explained, the Ik, Batwa, Benet and Tepeth are considered the VMGs in Uganda. A desk review of the vulnerable and marginalized Peoples and Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities shows that there are varying socio-demographic characteristics that any development intervention should consider. Most of the features demonstrate limited opportunities to access basic development opportunities. Below is the baseline for the VMGs in Uganda.

Table 3-1: Some basic social profiles for the VMGs

Variable	VMGs Baseline Profiles
Poverty	<p>High poverty levels in these communities caused by highly undependable climate, low produce and low market prices, for their produce even if the communities depend on farming.</p> <p>Batwa: Batwa people face extreme poverty in their everyday life. Once known to live in the depths of the African forests as one of the oldest indigenous tribes in the continent, they now reside in town slums.</p> <p>Tepeth: These Tepeth are mainly pastoralists and practice hunting. They rear some animals on the slopes but come down to graze them. Although they rear livestock, they do not believe in selling their animals. Animals are kept mainly for milk and marriage. They were fruit gatherers and do not believe in cutting down trees. They harvested honey from the forests.</p> <p>The IK and Benet just like the above groups experience food insecurity, limited access to basic social services, and poor economic and livelihood opportunities</p>
Inadequate land for settlement	<p>The Ik, Batwa, Benet and Tepeth are mobile due to land tenures systems, their social life or various uncertainties. They move when their lands are acquired from them or when they need to grow crops, away from where animals threaten to destroy them. When they are not assured of permanent settlement, they construct temporary shelters.</p> <p>They do not own land; they have a common experience state induced landlessness and historical injustices caused by the creation of conservation area in Uganda. They have experienced various human rights violations, including continued forced eviction and /exclusion from ancestral lands without community consultation, consent.</p>
Economic activities	<p>Similarly, these indigenous groups such as the Batwa, face challenges that limit their participation in economic activities for example cultural practices that limit their survival to particular areas, social exclusion by the majority groups and their cultural lifestyle is not based on cash economy. However, there have been some efforts to improve their self-reliance. Kanungu District, for instance, has persistently provided various crop seeds through their agricultural initiatives but the Batwa have in turn sold such agricultural inputs. Although they are known as hunters, they also do other forms of labour at low pay. Some do basic jobs or agriculture, while others make handicrafts and jewellery for sale to locals and tourists. They also do singing and dancing as form of entertainment for payment by visitors. Tourists pay some money to the dancing groups to be entertained. For the</p>

	<p>Tepeth, while they are traditionally hunters and gatherers, the Tepeth have also embraced agriculture. The main crops that they grow include maize and sorghum among the staple foods they consume. They also grow and consume pumpkins and other local vegetables. For food, they mainly grow and eat maize and sorghum, with beans and pumpkins as their main relish dish. They have their original type of maize that is very sweet and also a special type of sorghum that is sweet and liked by birds so much. Because of the disturbance from the birds, they are slowly adopting growing other varieties of sorghum that are not liked by the birds that much. They have also adopted growing of “Sukuma wiki” which sometimes floods the Moroto town market to the detriment of the Mbale vegetable sellers. They have also borrowed the practice of keeping cattle from the Karimojong. They keep livestock but do not believe in selling their livestock. Animals are kept mainly for milk and marriage. They rear some animals on the slopes but come down to graze them. They were fruit gatherers and do not believe in cutting down trees. They harvested honey from the forests.</p>
Education	<p>For most ethnic these groups, (Ik, Batwa, Benet and Tepeth), access to education remains a challenge. This is attributed to their unique social cultural practices such as their nomadic lifestyle, scarce school facilities in their localities, discrimination and stigma, and fear of the unknown. Yet education would allow for social transformation, self-sufficiency and promote self-esteem. Education offers the potential to undertake training in technical skills or to access employment, all of which would help these ethnic groups overcome the poverty they live in.</p>
Health service access	<p>Access and utilization of health care services remains a challenge for most of the Ik, Batwa, Benet and Tepeth. Factors such as limited awareness and acceptance of modern medicine, stigmatization by health workers, distance from health centers, over reliance on traditional medicine as well as high costs associated with access to health care. This has exposed them to the risk of high disease burden, high levels of infant and maternal mortality, high HIV prevalence etc.</p>
Social dynamics	<p>Women participation in social and community management activities is minimal compared to men. There are small numbers of women that participate in community meetings and this reflects the power dynamics in society; few women among them have the level of education needed to take up positions in local governance or obtain government employment.</p>
Poor road network and other services:	<p>Further still, the Ik, Batwa, Benet and Tepeth tend to live in areas characterised by very bad terrain and poor road network which renders them hard to reach. As such accessibility to them is a problem mainly due to the mountainous nature of their locations. This limits access to markets and other social services.</p>
Socio-cultural issues	<p>It is also pertinent to note that the communities where these ethnic minorities live are characterized by social problems such as extreme and abject poverty, child marriages, alcohol/substance abuse and domestic violence. The relationship between the marginalised and vulnerable groups and their dominant neighbours is characterised by ‘discrimination, marginalisation and stereotyping’. For some of these ethnic minorities, the concept of patriarchy and gender segregation is dominant, as is the case in most other tribes in Uganda.</p>

	<p>a. Eviction of VMGs from their homelands (Natural Forests) has limited their access to food, medicine, and shelter. As a result, some of them are plagued by starvation, sickness and exposure. For instance, the number of Batwa in Bundibugyo and Kisoro Districts are said to be reducing and therefore on the verge of total extinction due to the HIV/AIDS, which they have acquired as a result of integration with other communities who believe that one can get cured of the infection after canal knowledge with a Mutwa woman (Kabanankye, 2016).</p> <p>b. As traditional hunters/gatherers, the Ik have witnessed the depletion of wild game in their areas due to cutting down of trees and the widespread use of illegal guns; Timu forest which is a center for their rituals and traditions is slowly becoming depleted causing gathering methods to be more difficult and greatly affecting the performance of their rituals and traditions. The Dodoth and Turkana graze in Ik lands during which they cut down trees for fencing their homestead and kraal; Frequent attacks from hostile ethnic groups especially the Tepeth in Moroto are attacked by the Pokot and Turkana from the Kenya. The Ik are attacked by other Karamojong ethnic groups.</p> <p>c. The Benet, also known as Ndorobos, are 20,000 in number and live in Kween district on the margins of and inaccessible parts on the slopes of Mt. Elgon in the north-eastern part of Uganda, are on the verge of extinction due to takeover of Mt. Elgon by Uganda Wildlife Authority as a protected area for wildlife.</p>
Leadership	<p>Since the ethnic minorities lack numeric advantage, their participation in leadership at all levels is minimal. For example, it was only in 2015 that the Ik community were given affirmative action constituency and they got their first representation in Parliament of the Republic of Uganda in the 10th Parliament. Local leadership is optimistic that such representation can help to advocate for further recognition of such groups to ensure the effective participation in leadership, governance and the achievement of the NDP III goal.</p>

According to International Work Group for Vulnerable and Marginalized Affairs (IWGIA), a global human rights organization dedicated to promoting, protecting and defending vulnerable and marginalized peoples' rights, dispossession of traditional lands and territories is one of the major problems faced by VMGs in Africa. Development paradigms in the Sub-Saharan region tend to perceive VMGs' modes of production (pastoralist, hunting, and gathering), as primitive, non-productive and unaligned with today's modernization aspirations of African States. Therefore, many development policies are either directly or indirectly unfavourable to VMGs' modes of production.

3.1 Challenges Facing Vulnerable Groups

It is quite clear that these different communities have distinct lifestyles and differences in the way they go about their businesses. However, they still share some common challenges when it comes to the way they live their lives, access to land and other basic requirement, and also when it comes to the challenges associated with climate change. Some of the challenges faced include:

- a. Very harsh climatic conditions which has affected animal production in areas predominantly pastoral like Karamoja region. This has affected natural resources including agricultural land and water.
- b. Some of them are being faced with evictions, for example the Benet living on Mount Elgon.
- c. Government laws prohibit hunting without a license and restrict hunting (and grazing) in national parks which restrict the possibility of hunting as the cost of the licenses is prohibitively

expensive for these groups.

- d. Their land is being highly encroached by other ethnic groups. As a result, VGs face scarcity of land for practicing their traditional activities, pastoralists or as hunter-gatherers, something which contributes to a shift in their economic activities to small-scale farming or casual labor to survive.
- e. Hunter-gatherers have tended to be more isolated from communities and decision making. This is due in part to their lifestyle.

Most of these areas still struggle to access basic services like health and Education. Most of the children have to move several kilometres to access schools and the same applies to patients who have to move long distances to the nearest health facility

POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON THE VULNERABLE/MARGINALISED GROUPS

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an integrated approach to managing landscapes—cropland, livestock, forests and fisheries—that addresses the interlinked challenges of food security and accelerating climate change. The planned CSA interventions is expected to simultaneously achieve the following potential positive impacts and potential risks and impacts:

Table 3-2: Potential Positive and Negative risks and impacts of the project to the VMGs

Component	Positive & negative impact	Enhancement/mitigation measure
Positive impacts		
Component 1: Strengthen Climate-Smart Agricultural Research, and Seed Systems (US\$ 45 million-IDA).	On farm, production intensified through use of improved inputs complemented with good agricultural practices	Conduct consultations with the VMG communities, their cultural leaders and representatives in relation to the benefits of adopting improved farming practices and sensitize them about the benefits of CSA before project commencement and during project implementation.
Component 2: Promoting Adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture Practices and Value Chains (US\$190 million-IDA).	Business skills development Producer Associations (PA) will access services for business skills development through Technical Assistance provided by private sector partners. These will be supported and backstopped by local government staff at District and sub-county levels. The skills will enable them to carry out their post-harvest management, value addition and marketing more efficiently and effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the specific skills needs required for provision of appropriate programs and detailed inclusive selection criteria put in place will ensure no one is excluded in the process of business skill development. Training Programs should be designed in line with the specific business skills needs of the VMG communities.
	Acquisition of equipment and machinery: PAs will acquire climate smart post-harvest management equipment, including community-level storage, value addition and agro-processing equipment and machinery for commercialization of their enterprises.	Provide training and maintenance of farming equipment provided by the project.
	Market linkages: Farmers will be connected to potential off-takers who may be processors or traders of agriculture produce.	Ensure that strong and sustainable structures are built to improve on market access.
	Access roads: MAAIF will make investments in improving access roads through rehabilitation of choke points to reduce transaction costs	Ensure that the roads are properly constructed and maintained for purposes of continued access and ease of movement within the VMG communities. Conduct consultations with the communities, leaders about the benefits

	and contribute to enhancing incomes.	of improved road access to their communities.
Negative Risks and Impacts		
Component 1 &2	Risk of spread of HIV/AIDs	Continuous sensitization about HIV/AIDS prior to project implementation and after should be carried out by MAIIF to prevent VMGs and vulnerable groups from contracting/spreading HIV/AIDS.
	Risk of GBV/SEA owing to imported technical labour into project host areas to undertake civil works/infrastructure	<p>Referral pathways to provide support for VMGs should be built in from the beginning to address any backlash which does occur, for instance in the occurrence of GBV as a result of women's engagement in entrepreneurial activities. To ensure that SGBV survivors within the VGM communities can confidentially report incidents through their representatives in the GRM structures and have timely and non-discriminatory access to services and support, including medical, psychosocial, legal and material assistance, as well as safe spaces where needed.</p> <p>The GBV redress mechanism should adopt a survivor-centred approach that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treats every survivor with respect. • Ensures the safety of survivors and their families. • Respects the choices, wishes, rights and confidentiality of survivors and their families. • The identity of a survivor should never be revealed without his or her prior consent. • Provides services and support without discrimination on any grounds. • Provide and implement a gender-based violence strategy, which will form one of the Contractor's clauses. • Gender sensitization campaigns in the project held; with specific focus on men and the need for spousal support in business
	Risk of rejecting improved seed varieties by the VMG communities owing to cultural beliefs and misinformation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct consultations with the VMG communities, their cultural leaders and representatives in relation to the benefits of adopting improved farming practices.
	Risk of exclusion of VMGs in selection of beneficiaries.	

	Risk of excluding VMGs from CSA capacity building.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The selection criteria and screening of beneficiaries for capacity building, access to improved seed varieties, farm equipment, needs to be clear, inclusive and acceptable by key stakeholders otherwise this can exclude other categories of potential beneficiaries in the process; like women with disability, poorer women among VMG communities.
	Risk of Contracting and Spreading COVID-19.	Covid-19 management plan and SOPs both on-site and offsite.
	Risk of poor use and maintenance of established infrastructure such as community-level storage, value addition and agro-processing equipment and machinery for commercialization of their enterprises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that VMGs communities in general and their organizations/local leaders are not excluded by any means in activities of selection, design, and implementation processes.
	Risk of child labour in VMGs communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAAIF in collaboration with the district local governments should ensure that existing child protection mechanisms (policies and laws on children’s rights, labour etc.) are adhered to in line with national laws, ESS2 and the Labour management procedure in the ESMF to guide civil works and minimize any risk associated with it including influx of labour.

5 LEGAL, POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS IN UGANDA

Uganda has subscribed to several international legal instruments that oblige the State to observe the rights of ethnic minority groups. These include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007). There is no universally accepted definition of vulnerable/marginalized people. Different terms such as Indigenous ethnic minorities, hill tribes, minority nationalities, scheduled tribes, first nations, or tribal groups. In Uganda, the term “ethnic minorities” is used to refer to such groups, which are categorized as vulnerable and marginalized.

4.1 Legal Framework

5.1.1 Uganda’s 1995 Constitution (amended 2005)

According to Uganda’s 1995 Constitution (amended 2005), there are 65 ethnic groups referred to as its indigenous communities as from the date of February 1, 1926. The Ugandan Constitution does not expressly recognize indigenous peoples within the scope of definition of ESS7. However, there is provision for addressing some of the negative effects arising from ethnic imbalances. Under its National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy, the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda provides that every effort shall be made to integrate all peoples and recognizes the existence of, amongst others, their ethnic, religious and cultural diversity. In this regard, the Constitution requires that everything necessary be done to promote a culture of cooperation, understanding, appreciation, tolerance and respect for each other’s customs, traditions and beliefs.

Article 32 on affirmative action in favor of marginalized groups states that the State shall take affirmative action in favor of groups marginalized on the basis of gender, age, disability or any other reason created by history, tradition or custom, for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist against them; and that Parliament shall make relevant laws, including laws for the establishment of an equal opportunities commission, for the purpose of giving full effect of clause (i) of article 32. The Ugandan Constitution goes further to provide for the protection of minorities in Article 36 which grants Minorities the right to participate in decision making processes and their views and interests shall be considered in the making of national plans and programs.

5.1.2 Equal Opportunities Commission Act (2007)

The Equal Opportunities Commission Act (2007) makes provisions to affect the state’s constitutional mandate to eliminate discrimination and inequalities against any individual or group of persons on the ground including ethnic origin and tribe, and to take affirmative action in favor of marginalized groups for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist against them.

5.1.3 The Workers’ Compensation Act, Cap 225

The Act provides for the compensation of injured workers, treatment of injuries and illnesses in the course of employment, and continued payment of wages to ill or injured workers during temporary incapacitation. It requires employers to be insured against any injuries that might affect their employees during the course of employment/injuries at work or in transit to and from work. Seeks to ensure that injured workers are compensated to alleviate any burden that might present to the families and the project. Workers from the VMGs that will be injured or ill during the implementation of the UCSAT project will be compensated so as to reduce the burden of reliance on their families.

5.1.4 The Employment Act, 2006

The Act provides for the recruitment, contracting, deployment, remuneration, management and compensation of workers. The Act prohibits employment of children under 12 years. A child of 12-14 years can only be employed for light work under supervision of an adult and not during school hours. Additionally, according to the Act any form of discrimination or preference in employment on the basis

of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, natural extraction, social origin, HIV status or disability is unlawful. Labour conditions and relations during the implementation of UCSAT will be governed by the employment Act, most especially prohibiting any discrimination of vulnerable and marginalized groups during the implementation of the Project.

5.1.5 Employment (Sexual Harassment) Regulations, 2012

The regulations provide for prohibition of sexual harassment at work place. The project will employ members of the VMGs and the provisions in these regulations shall protect the employees irrespective of their social status. The Regulations prohibit (a) use of language whether written or spoken of a sexual nature such as unwelcome verbal advances, sexual oriented comments, request for sexual favours, jokes of a sexual nature, offensive flirtation or obscene expressions of sexual interest that are addressed directly to the person; (b) use of visual material of a sexual nature such as display of sexually suggestive pictures, objects or written materials or sexually suggestive gestures; and (c) showing physical behaviour of a sexual nature such as unwanted and unwelcome touching, patting, pinching or any other unsolicited physical contact; which directly or indirectly subjects the employee to behaviour that is unwelcome or offensive to that employee and that, either by its nature or through repetition, has a detrimental effect on that employee's employment, job performance or job satisfaction.

5.1.6 The Local Government Act (1997)

The Local Government Act, 1997 provides for the local governments as the institutions responsible for the protection of the environment at the district and lower levels. This therefore, implies that local governments shall be consulted on projects to be located within their areas of jurisdiction and on matters that affect their environment. During this study, the neighbouring local communities/Villages and other stakeholders surrounding the Program area districts including relevant district technical staff were consulted. Leaders at these levels of local administration are closer to residents and therefore important in effective community mobilization, sensitization and dispute resolution. Similarly, local government structures are important for mobilizing support for the project as well as monitoring its social-environmental impacts both during implementation and operation phases in the beneficiary communities and VMG communities.

4.2 The Policy Framework

5.3.1 National Policy for Older Persons (2009)

This policy is clearly set within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and other laws that promote the rights of older persons among other vulnerable groups. It provides a framework for enhancing the recognition of the roles, contributions and potentials of older persons in the development process among others. The policy targets older persons aged 60 years and above with special emphasis on the vulnerable. Section 3.4 states that, "All stakeholders will ensure that issues of older women and men are included in planning and implementation of programmes."

5.3.2 Uganda Land Policy (2013)

The goal of the policy is: "to ensure efficient, equitable and sustainable utilization and management of Uganda's land and land-based resources for poverty reduction, wealth creation and overall socioeconomic development". Policy statement 57 of the Uganda Land Policy (2013) provides for Government to recognize and protect the right to ancestral lands of ethnic minority groups and obliges Government to pay prompt, adequate, and fair compensation to ethnic minority groups that are displaced from their ancestral land by government action since land is a key asset in rural economies.

The Rights for Minorities: As regards land rights of ethnic minorities, the Policy provides that:

- i. Government shall, in its use and management of natural resources, recognize and protect the right to ancestral lands of ethnic minority groups; and

- ii. Government shall pay prompt, adequate and fair compensation to ethnic minority groups that are displaced from their ancestral land by government action.

With reference to the land rights of pastoral communities, the Policy states that “Land rights of pastoral communities will be guaranteed and protected by the State.” To protect the land rights of pastoralists, government will take measures to:

- a. Ensure that pastoral lands are held, owned and controlled by designated pastoral communities as common property under customary tenure;
- b. Develop particular projects for adaptation and reclamation of pastoral lands for sustainable productivity and improved livelihood of communities;
- c. Protect pastoral lands from indiscriminate appropriation by individuals or corporate institutions under the guise of investment;
- d. Promote the establishment of Communal Land Associations and use of communal land management schemes among pastoral communities;
- e. Establish efficient mechanisms for the speedy resolution of conflict over pastoral resources, and between pastoral communities and sedentary communities

Therefore, the land policy recognizes the rights of Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups to their ancestral lands and should effectively address the challenges that have been faced by the Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups (VMG) in Uganda.

5.3.3 The Uganda Vision 2040

This is Uganda’s blueprint for socio-economic transformation from a subsistence-based economy to an industrialized one. This vision recognizes the importance of the social economic transformation of all, including VMGs.

5.3.4 National Development Plan III

The goal of this Plan is “To Increase Household Incomes and Improve Quality of Life of Ugandans. The Plan has identified human capital development, private sector development and community mobilization and empowerment programs as some of the eighteen (18) programs designed to deliver the required results under this Plan. The NPD III prioritizes social economic development as a key catalyst for development of Uganda. The UCSATP aims at increasing economic productivity of the VMGs which will contribute to the achievement of this goal. This will contribute to eradicating poverty as well as sustaining economic growth, enhancing social inclusion regardless of gender creed or cultural beliefs to improve welfare and creating opportunities for employment and decent work for all, while maintaining the healthy functioning of the ecosystems.

5.3.5 The Equal Opportunities Policy, 2006

The MGLSD has also developed an Equal Opportunities Policy which provides for vulnerable and other marginalized groups to equitable access and benefit from government development projects. Gender and vulnerability are some of the priority areas with a focus on equitable access and control of resources, and addressing negative cultural practices that limit opportunities for marginalized men and women. The Policy provides for vulnerable and other marginalized groups to equitable access and benefit from government development projects. Gender is one of the priority areas with a focus on equitable access and control of resources, and addressing negative cultural practices that limit opportunities for marginalized men and women. This project aims at ensuring equitable access to opportunities irrespective of socio-economic status and cultural beliefs of VMGs.

5.3.6 The Uganda Gender Policy, 2007

The goal of the Policy is to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment as an integral part of Uganda's socio-economic development. One of the policy’s objectives is to reduce gender inequalities so that all women and men, girls and boys, are able to move out of poverty and to achieve improved

and sustainable livelihoods. The policy is a guide to all stakeholders in planning, resource allocation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of programmes with a gender perspective.

The goal of the Policy is to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment as an integral part of Uganda's socio-economic development. One of the policy's objectives is to reduce gender inequalities so that all women and men, girls and boys, are able to move out of poverty and to achieve improved and sustainable livelihoods. The policy is a guide to all stakeholders in planning, resource allocation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of programmes with a gender perspective. This policy applies to inclusion and special preference for VMGs. It also promotes non-discrimination in recruitment of construction labour for component one of the UCSATP activities where women should have equal opportunity as men for available jobs at all levels of the project management. The recruitment process will be carried out in conformity with this policy.

5.3.7 The Uganda National Culture Policy (2006)

This Policy seeks to promote community action on cultural practices that promote and that impinge on human dignity. It provides guidance on any development to avoid impingement on the culture of vulnerable and marginalized persons' The UCSATP will collaborate with the Department of Culture in ensuring proper preservation of positive cultural practice with the VMG communities.

5.3.8 The National Policy on Elimination of Gender Based Violence (2016) (GBV) in Uganda

This Policy was developed to address the critical problem of GBV in the Country including what occurs at workplace. The UCSATP is expected to have contractors who will employ workers from the vulnerable groups. Vulnerable and marginalized communities usually suffer in silence either due to fear of repercussions of reporting or lack of awareness of their rights and services available. The UCSATP Project will collaborate with other Government institutions to ensure that risk of Gender Based Violence on the vulnerable communities as a result of implementation activities is prevented or minimized within the VMG communities and the wider community.

5.3.9 National Child Labour Policy, 2006

This policy prohibits employment of children. Children are more prone to accidents at workplaces. The policy defines child labour as work that is mentally, physically, socially and/or morally dangerous and harmful to children. In addition, child labour is perceived as work or activities that interfere with children's school attendance. Hazardous work which by its nature or the circumstances under which it is performed jeopardizes the health, safety and morals of a child. The project will ensure that no children are employed to work during the implementation of the proposed project. Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development (MGLSD) is the institution responsible for the implementation of this policy. Under UCSATP, the Project Implementation Unit will ensure child labour, especially in Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups communities is not engaged by any of the project implementing agencies.

5.3.10 The National Equal Opportunities Policy 2006

The policy objectives amongst others are geared towards guiding the planning processes, affirmative action, and implementation of programmes and allocation of resources to all stakeholders. It also seeks to empower the marginalized and vulnerable groups for their full participation in all development processes. It is noted that, discrimination and stigmatization may serve as a barrier for the indigenous and marginalized in selected project areas to accessing employment and support opportunities, therefore this policy will act as a guiding principle to ensure that all groups are included in the planning and implementation process.

5.3.11 The National Land Use Policy

The overall policy goal is to achieve sustainable and equitable socio-economic development through optimal land management and utilization in Uganda. The policy recognizes amongst others, the need

for the protection and sustainable use of land resources through conducting environmental assessments and implementation of measures geared towards sustainable land use. The policy takes cognizance of the fact that women, children, minority groups and PWDs have been denied access to land rights as a result of discriminatory laws, customs and practices. Additionally, by recognising that the land and resources that the IPs/VMGs live in and depend on are inextricably linked to their identities, cultures, livelihoods, physical, and spiritual well-being, the policy seeks to ameliorate their continued marginalization.

5.3.12 The National Gender Policy, 1997

The government adopted a National Gender Policy of 1997, a tool to guide and direct the planning, resource allocation and implementation of development programs with a gender perspective. The adoption of the gender policy has facilitated Uganda's gender mainstreaming programs in all sectors of the economy (implying, the planned works project should equally integrate gender into the implementation of works. During project implementation, OPM will be obliged to deliberately mainstream gender interventions into the project including VMG communities.

5.3.13 National Policy on HIV/AIDS and the world of work, 2007:

The policy provides the principles and a framework for a multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS in Ugandan's world of work. The policy obliges developing entities to mainstream HIV/AIDS interventions to their planned development interventions. It also applies to all aspects of work, both formal and informal. The Project will take deliberate measures to mainstream HIV/AIDS interventions into its plans and activities. MGSLD will be obliged to mainstream HIV/AIDS interventions to their planned development interventions and include the VMG communities.

5.3.14 National Policy for Older Persons (2009)

This policy is clearly set within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and other laws that promote the rights of older persons among other vulnerable groups. It provides a framework for enhancing the recognition of the roles, contributions and potentials of older persons in the development process among others. The policy targets older persons aged 60 years and above with special emphasis on the vulnerable. The older people are often discriminated and neglected. As the implementing entity, MAIIF will need to roll out the project with focus on older person being integral to the development agenda for both the wider communities and VMG communities.

4.3 Institutional Framework

4.3.1 Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)

The overall responsibility for project implementation will lie with MAAIF. A Project Coordination/Implementation Unit (PCU) comprised of senior level officials from the respective technical departments of MAAIF to take on responsibility for day-to-day management of the project. Among other staff, the PCU will be constituted by Environmental Specialist, Social Specialist, Financial Management Specialist and Procurement Management Specialist. MAAIF will undertake overall technical coordination and implementation of the project, coordinating the National level MDAs and the participating District Local Governments.

The MAAIF will ensure smooth implementation of the UCSAT project by the various implementing agencies under the project. The Ministry will ensure that the required instruments for managing E&S risks with emphasis on VGMs are prepared and implemented including: ESCP, ESMF, RPF, SEP, ESIA, ESMPs and RAPS.

4.3.2 Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

OPM is responsible for ensuring efficient and effective implementation of government policies, programs and projects. As part of their overall mandate, they also monitor these activities targeting VGMs.

4.3.3 Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD)

The Ministry's mandate is to empower communities to harness their potential through cultural growth, skills development and labour productivity for sustainable and gender responsive development. The vision of the Ministry is "a better standard of living, equity and social cohesion, especially for poor and vulnerable groups in Uganda." The mission of the ministry is "promotion of gender equality, labour administration, social protection and transformation of communities."

4.3.4 Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED)

Formulates sound **economic** and fiscal policies, mobilize resources for the implementation of government programmes, disburse public resources as appropriated by Parliament, and account for their use in accordance with national laws and international best practices

4.3.5 The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)

The UHRC is Uganda's national human rights institution created by the Constitution, with mandate, amongst others, "to investigate violations of human rights and to monitor government compliance with its human rights obligations detailed in the Constitution." This is in addition to making recommendations to Parliament on measures to promote human rights. The Commission has since its establishment played a very important role in highlighting human rights violations in the country and making recommendations for rectification.

4.3.6 The Equal Opportunities Commission

The mandate of the Commission is "to eliminate discrimination and inequalities against any individual or group of persons on the ground of sex, age, race, colour, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, religion, health status, social or economic standing, political opinion or disability, and take affirmative action in favour of groups marginalized on the basis of gender, age, disability or any other reason created by history, tradition or custom for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist against them, and to provide for other related matters." The EOC also has powers to hear and determine complaints by any person against any action, practice, usage, plan, policy programme, tradition, culture or custom which amounts to discrimination, marginalization or undermines equal opportunity.

4.3.7 Ministry in Charge of Karamoja Affairs

The Ministry in Charge of Karamoja Affairs under OPM was an initiative started in order to focus on and address the unique problems and development challenges of Karamoja and its peoples. In May 2011, the President elevated the ministry in charge of Karamoja Affairs to a full ministry complete with a State Minister for Karamoja Affairs. Although it is still too soon to review the relevance and efficiency of this ministry, its elevation can be interpreted as the government's attempt to scale-up interventions to address water scarcity, food insecurity, insecurity and poverty in Karamoja region.

4.3.8 International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)

IWGIA is an international human rights organization staffed by specialists and advisers on indigenous affairs. IWGIA supports indigenous peoples' struggle for human rights, self-determination, right to territory, control of land and resources, cultural integrity, and the right to development. The aim was to establish a network of concerned researchers and human right activists to document the situation of indigenous peoples and advocate for an improvement of their rights. IWGIA works at local, regional and international levels to further the understanding and knowledge of, and the involvement in, the cause of indigenous peoples

4.3.9 Minority Rights Group International

Minority Rights Group International (MRGI) is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) working to secure the rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples worldwide, and to promote cooperation and understanding between communities. Their activities are focused on international advocacy, training, publishing and outreach. It is guided by the needs expressed by our worldwide partner network of organizations, which represent minority and indigenous peoples.

4.3.10 District Local Governments

The Local Governments are mandated under Article 176 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995 (as amended) to ensure people's participation and democratic control in decision making. Using this mandate, the District Community Based Services Department will participate in the implementation and monitoring the implementation of the VMGF in the districts where Ik, Benet, Batwa and Tepeth are located.

4.4 International Treaties and Commitments on Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups

This section highlights international and regional commitments and treaties which Uganda is a signatory and are relevant for the framework.

4.4.1 International Labour Organization

The first international standard on populations was International Labour Organisation (ILO) 107 (1957), was revised and reformulated in 1989 and amended in ILO 169. In this Convention, indigenous peoples are defined in Article 1(1) as:

- ❖ Tribal peoples in independent countries whose social, cultural and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations.
- ❖ Peoples in independent countries who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, or a geographical region to which the country belongs, at the time of conquest or colonization or the establishment of present state boundaries and who, irrespective of their legal status, retain some or all their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions.

According to a new ILO report, released to mark the 30th anniversary of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Convention 1989 (N^o. 169), indigenous peoples are nearly three times as likely to be living in extreme poverty as their non-indigenous counterparts.

The ILO has been engaged with indigenous and tribal peoples' issues since the 1920s. It is responsible for the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (N^o. 169), the only international treaty opens for ratification that deals exclusively with the rights of these peoples. The ILO's Decent Work Agenda, with gender equality and non-discrimination as a cross-cutting concern, serves as a framework for indigenous and tribal peoples' empowerment. Access to decent work enables indigenous women and men to harness their potential as change agents in poverty reduction, sustainable development and climate change action.

4.4.2 The Vienna Declaration and Program of Action 1993.

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA) is a human rights declaration adopted by consensus at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993 in Vienna, Austria. The convention emphasizes the need to give great importance to the promotion and protection of human rights of all persons rendered vulnerable including migrant workers.

4.4.3 East African Community Gender Policy, 2018

The East African Protocol under the Section of Gender, Community Development and Civil Society emphasizes the need to adopt common approaches towards the disadvantaged and marginalized groups, including women, children, the youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities aimed at employment creation, poverty alleviation and improving working conditions.

4.5 The World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework, 2018

ESS 7: Indigenous Peoples/ Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

This standard contributes to the Bank's mission of poverty reduction and sustainable development by ensuring that the development process fully respects the dignity, human rights, economies, and cultures of Indigenous Peoples.

For all projects that are proposed for Bank financing and affect Indigenous Peoples, the Bank requires the borrower to engage in a process of meaningful engagement, to promote effective project design, to build local project support or ownership, and to reduce the risk of project-related delays or controversies, the Borrower will undertake an engagement process with affected Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities, as required in ESS10. This engagement process will include stakeholder analysis and engagement planning, disclosure of information, and meaningful consultation in a culturally appropriate and gender and intergenerationally inclusive manner. For Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities, the process of meaningful consultation will also:

- ❖ Involve Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities' representative bodies and organizations (e.g., councils of elders or village councils, or chieftains) and, where appropriate, other community members;
- ❖ Provide sufficient time for Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities' decision-making processes; and
- ❖ Allow for Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities' effective participation in the design of project activities or mitigation measures that could potentially affect them either positively or negatively.

Furthermore, this ESS requires the borrower to obtain the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the affected Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities in accordance with paragraphs 25 and 26 of ESS7 in circumstances in which the project will:

- ❖ Have adverse impacts on land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation;
- ❖ Cause relocation of Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities from land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; or
- ❖ Have significant impacts on Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities' cultural heritage that is material to the identity and/or cultural, ceremonial, or spiritual aspects of the affected Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities' lives.

The Bank provides project financing only where free, prior, and informed consent results in broad community support to the project by the affected Indigenous Peoples. The policy establishes processing requirements: screening, social assessment, consultation with communities involved, preparation of plan or framework, and disclosure.

The UCSAT Project will be implemented in areas where the Benets in Mt. Elgon slopes inhabit, the Batwa in South Western Uganda, the Iks and Tepeth in the Karamoja region who meet the criteria for ESS7. However, FPIC is not required under this project since the proposed project will NOT involve loss of, alienation from or exploitation of their land and access to natural and cultural resources and will not cause relocation of the VGs. The VMGF provides adequate guidance on mitigating potential impacts of the project on VGs, ensuring their inclusion into project undertakings and benefits.

ESS 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

The Bank obligates the Borrower to consider feasible alternative project designs to avoid the relocation of Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities from communally held or attached land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or customary use or occupation. If such relocation is unavoidable, the Borrower will not proceed with the project unless free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) has been obtained as described above; the Borrower will not resort to forced eviction, and any relocation of Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities will meet the requirements of ESS5 and ESS7. Where feasible, the relocated Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities will be able to return to their

traditional or customary land, should the cause of their relocation cease to exist. For these reasons, the overall objectives of the Bank's ESS5 policy on involuntary resettlement are the following:

- a. To avoid involuntary resettlement or, when unavoidable, minimize involuntary resettlement by exploring project design alternatives.
- b. To avoid forced eviction.
- c. To mitigate unavoidable adverse social and economic impacts from land acquisition or restrictions on land use by: (a) providing timely compensation for loss of assets at replacement

As indicated in the RPF, it is not anticipated that the project will involve any significant land acquisition or involuntary resettlement. Some activities under component 3 may require land (mainly on existing local government land) which will be managed in accordance with the requirements of ESS5, the RPF and outlined in the project operations manuals as appropriate.

6 VULNERABLE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS AND CONTENTS OF A VULNERABLE GROUP PLAN

Based on the proposed project activities, identification of vulnerable individuals/groups will aim at:

- i. Identification, categorization and prioritization of vulnerable groups/individuals;
- ii. Ensure that vulnerable groups/individuals' voices are heard and integrated into the project planning process through meaningful consultations;
- iii. Prepare and put in place special assistance measures for vulnerable and marginalized persons;
- iv. Identify potential vulnerability risks, impacts, drivers and recommend appropriate mitigation measures;
- v. Identify and plan for in advance issues that might influence project design especially in relation to the various vulnerable groups/individuals and assess and prevent potential risks and negative impacts that could affect them disproportionately, as well as become barriers to accessing project benefits.

Vulnerable/marginalised people and or individuals are in many instances among the most economically marginalized and vulnerable segments of the population. Their economic, social, and legal status frequently limits their capacity to defend their rights to, and interests in, land, territories, and natural and cultural resources, and may restrict their ability to participate in and benefit from development projects. The criteria below will be used to map and categorise marginalised groups under the UCSATP;

- a. **Social factors:** These include; inequality, social exclusion and discrimination by gender and social status, religion, marital status, orphans, age, cultural, psychological and patriarchy conditions
- b. **Economic factors:** These include economic status, livelihood sources and dependency on natural resource as a principle source of livelihood.
- c. **Disability factors:** include physical disability, hearing, visual and mental disability
- d. **Health factors:** chronic illnesses, frailness and immobility
- e. State of citizenship (refugees)
- f. Educational levels
- g. **Environmental factors:** Poor environmental management practices that lead to climate change effects such as prolonged drought, seasonal floods and wild fires
- h. Land tenure-based vulnerability.
- i. **Under served or marginalized communities:** ESS7 recognizes the plight of underserved communities. Under this project, the IK of Kaabong, Tepeth, also referred to as the Soo of Moroto, the Benet of Kween and Batwa found in South Western Uganda are categorized as indigenous people.

5.1 Contents of the Plan

The Vulnerable and marginalised Groups Management Plan shall be prepared in a flexible and implementable manner, and its level of detail will depend on key issues and nature of effects to be addressed. The VMGP shall among other things include the following elements

- a. A summary of the legal and institutional framework applicable to VGs.
- b. Baseline information on the demographic, social, cultural, and political characteristics of the affected VGs communities, the land and territories that they have traditionally owned or customarily used or occupied, and the natural resources on which they depend as it relates to the project.
- c. A summary of the social assessment.
- d. A summary of results of the stakeholder consultation with the affected VGs that was carried out during project preparation.
- e. An action plan of measures to ensure that the VGs receive social and economic benefits that are culturally appropriate, including, if necessary, measures to enhance the capacity of the project implementing agencies.

- f. When potential adverse effects on VGs are identified, appropriate action plans of measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for these adverse effects drawing on the information presented in the Social Assessment.
- g. The cost estimates and financing plan for the VGP; each project will bear full cost of assisting and rehabilitating VGs.
- h. Accessible procedures appropriate to the project to address grievances by the affected VGs arising from project implementation. When designing the grievance procedures, the government considers the availability of judicial recourse and customary dispute settlement mechanisms among the VGs'.
- i. Mechanisms and benchmarks appropriate to the project for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the implementation of the PSVGP.

7 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

ESS7 requires a developer to ensure that Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities present in or with collective attachment to the project area/s are fully consulted about, and have opportunities to actively participate in, project design and the determination of project implementation arrangements. It also requires the developer to prepare a consultation strategy and identify the means by which affected Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities will participate in project design and implementation. As such, the stakeholder process should follow the following steps:

7.1 Stakeholder Identification and mapping

All the interested and affected stakeholders will be identified with specific focus of the vulnerable and marginalized groups and will include an elaboration of a culturally appropriate process for consulting with the VMGs at each stage of project preparation and implementation. A stakeholder mapping exercise will be conducted for each of the proposed sub-projects where there is a likelihood of VMGs being affected and the stakeholder mapping process will ensure that all the interested and affected stakeholders are identified and included in the social assessment process including impact identification and mitigation.

7.2 Stakeholder Consultation

Once screening has been conducted and an investment found to be located in an area where vulnerable and marginalized groups are present, the existing administrative structures –district, county and sub county leaders will be used to inform the vulnerable and marginalized communities about the proposed sub projects. District technical leaders in collaboration with UCSAT will facilitate and arrange for consultative meetings with members of the vulnerable and marginalized groups and in these meetings, there will be free and prior information about the proposed sub projects, the proposed location, and potential adverse risks and impacts of the project on the marginalized and vulnerable groups. Such consultation will include use of indigenous languages, allowing time for consensus building, and selecting appropriate venues to facilitate the articulation by VMGs of their views and preferences. Representatives of the vulnerable and marginalized groups in collaboration with the local administration in the sub project area will select a venue that is considered by way of mutual consensus as appropriate.

Engagement will be based on honest and open provision of information, and in a form that is accessible to VMGs. Engagement will begin at the earliest possible stage, prior to substantive on-the-ground activity implementation. Engagement, wherever possible, will be undertaken through traditional authorities and structures within communities and with respect for traditional decision-making structures and processes. However, recognition of the limitation these structures sometimes pose for some groups, such as women and young people will be considered.

Good practice community engagement, in the context of Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups and projects, will aim to ensure that:

- a. Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups understand their rights;
- b. Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups are informed about, and comprehend the full range (short, medium and long-term) of social and environmental impacts – positive and negative – that can result from the proposed investment;
- c. Any concerns that Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups have about potentially negative impacts are understood and addressed by the UCSATP;
- d. Traditional knowledge informs the design and implementation of mitigation strategies and is treated respectfully;
- e. There is mutual understanding and respect between the UCSATP and the Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups as well as other stakeholders;

- f. Vulnerable and Marginalized People aspirations are considered in project planning so that people have ownership of, and participate fully in decisions about, community development programs and initiatives;
- g. The project has the broad, on-going support of the Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups; and
- h. The voices of all in the Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups are heard; that is, engagement processes are inclusive.

In preparing the VMGP, information will be gathered through consultations with stakeholders by separate group meetings with Vulnerable Groups, including their leaders, NGOs, CBOs, and affected persons. Discussions will focus on potential positive and negative impacts of implementing project for the VGs, measures to enhance positive impacts, and, strategies/options to minimize and/or mitigate negative impacts.

The stakeholder engagement process will be conducted using documentation review, interviews with key informants, and focus group discussions and Special Village Assembly Meetings with VGs, and other identified Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The process will generate data and information based on the indicators summarized in Table 7-1 below.

Table 7-1: Vulnerable /Marginalized Groups Stakeholders Engagement Process Matrix

Issues	Activity	Responsible	Indicators
Screening	Meeting with Local leaders, and Traditional Leaders	MAAIF/PCU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening Forms completed
Orientation and Mobilization of VGs	Community meetings	MAAIF/PCU, VGs and L.C leadership representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of community meeting minutes, • Number of VGs attended • Total number of participants in place
Consultations with VGs	Participatory Rural Appraisals	MAAIF/PCU, VGs, and L.C representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Village Assembly meeting minutes, • Attendance of VGs by categories, • Detailed social screening report, • Documentation of the consultations.
Development of strategies for participation of VGs and mitigation measures for identified concerns / issues	Participatory planning with VGs	MAAIF/PCU, VGs, and LC representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance of VGs by categories, • Planning report • List of positive impacts to be strengthened, • List of negative impacts to be mitigated, • Compensation measures if required
Carry out capacity building for VGs if needed	Conduct information sharing sessions	MAAIF/PCU, VGs, and L.C representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of VGs attendance, • Minutes of meetings, • Information sharing reports
Participatory M&E process with VGs to carry out	To conduct participatory	MAAIF/PCU, VGs, and L.C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint monitoring reports accessible to VGs and implementing agencies,

M&E	monitoring	representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of VGs representatives attended the process
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The participatory stakeholder engagement will determine whether to proceed with a respective sub-project or not. In case it is agreed to proceed, the MAAIF and in particular the PCU facilitator will prepare the following:

- i. The findings of the stakeholder engagements;
- ii. Recommendations for VGs participation during project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation; and
- iii. Any formal agreements reached with VGs.

The Consultation process will document the community general assembly minutes with attendance lists and VG members' lists, photographic evidence and minutes of other meetings and/or back-to-office reports.

7.3 Stakeholder Engagement during Design and Implementation

Participation of VGs in selection, design and implementation of the project components, will largely determine the extent of achievement of VMGF objectives. To ensure that benefits are realized and where adverse impacts are likely, the MAAIF/PCU team will undertake prior and informed consultations with the likely affected VGs and those who work with and/or are knowledgeable of VGs' development issues and concerns. To facilitate effective participation, the VMPPF will follow a timetable to consult VGs at different stages of the project cycle, especially during preparation and implementation of the VMGP which will be complemented by the UCSAT's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). The primary objectives would be to examine the following:

- a. To seek their inputs/feedback on how to maximize benefits, accessibility and how to avoid or minimize the potential adverse impacts associated with the project;
- b. Identify culturally appropriate impact mitigation measures; and
- c. Assess and adopt education opportunities, which the SA could promote to complement the measures required to mitigate the adverse impacts.

Consultations will be carried out broadly in two stages. First, prior to final selection of any project component located in an area inhabited by VGs. The outcomes of these consultations will guide the design of the sub-project. MAAIF/PCU will consult the VGs about the need for and the probable positive and negative impacts associated with the project execution. Second, during preparation, to ascertain how the VGs in general perceive the project and gather any inputs/feedback they might offer for better outcomes. This will eventually be addressed in VMPPF and inform the design of the project.

The VGs communication strategy will:

- a. Facilitate participation of VGs with adequate gender and generational representation; Youth, customary/traditional VG organizations; community elders, VC leaders; and CSOs, CBOs and Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) on VGs development issues and concerns.
- b. Provide them with relevant information about the project components, including that on potential adverse impacts, organize and conduct the consultations in manners to ensure free expression of their views and preferences.
- c. Document details of all consultation meetings, with VGs perceptions of the proposed project and the associated impacts, especially the adverse ones and any inputs/feedbacks given by VGs; and an account of the community support or consent by VGs.

The SA will examine the detailed impacts at an individual and community levels, with a particular focus on the adverse impacts perceived by VGs and the feasible mitigation measures. To ensure continuing informed participation and more focused discussions, the communication strategy will provide affected VGs with the impact details of the proposed project. Consultations will cover areas concerning cultural and socioeconomic characteristics, as well as what VGs consider important.

Consultations will continue throughout the preparation and implementation period. Consultation stages, probable participants, methods, and expected outcomes.

The following strategies should also be included in the project to support the participation of the VGs:

- a. The project should explore how to accommodate the most vulnerable and destitute of the VGs.
- b. Encourage VGs to get involved in various project planning, designing, and implementation activities in the project through arranging related training.
- c. Assist VG youth to develop their capacity and capability to enable them to participate in proposed project components;
- d. Ensure adequate resources and technical support for the implementation of the action plan for VGs.
- e. At all stages culturally appropriate communication methods (verbal and nonverbal, in local language) should be used to ensure meaningful consultation.

Once the VGs are identified in the project area, the VGP will ensure mitigation of any adverse impact of the project and access to benefits. The project components should ensure benefits to the VGs by providing (in consultation with the VGs themselves) opportunity to get them involved in various project activities. The following issues need to be addressed during the implementation stage of the project:

- a. Provision of an effective mechanism for monitoring implementation of the VMPPF;
- b. Development of accountability mechanism to ensure the planned benefits of the project are received by VGs;
- c. Ensuring appropriate budgetary allocation of resources for the VG development.
- d. Provision of technical assistance for sustaining the PSVGP;
- e. Ensure that VGs traditional social organizations, cultural heritage, traditional political and community organizations are protected.

7.4 Preliminary Stakeholder Consultations

Consultations were undertaken with various stakeholders for the preparation of this VMGF. Details of the consultations (who was consulted, where, when and issues that emerged) can be found in section Annex 1. The consultations were mainly to establish the impacts, both positive and adverse, of the UCSATP subprojects on VMGs which have been presented in the previous section. Additionally, the consultations were to get the views of the stakeholders; and to check with the VMGs, on their own views as well as seek broad stakeholder/institutional support for the proposed UCSAT. Below is the summary of the views from the VMGs representatives and coordinators:

Table 7-2: Summary of stakeholder views related to VMGs

Stakeholder	Date	Issues/concerns	Responses
Coordinator CSOs working with Batwa (Ms. Penninah Zaninka)	20 th April 2022	a. Land size and fertility are major constraints towards agricultural yields and contributors to food insecurity amongst the Batwa communities.	This is noted. The project will ensure that it engages Batwa communities on land use practices and smarter ways of agricultural production to mitigate the risk and challenge of food insecurity.
		b. Due to land scarcity, Batwa households do practice over-cultivation, that depreciates their land fertility thereby depriving of them of good yields and food insecurity.	Through consultation with the communities and relevant stakeholders, the project will establish if there is alternative land within the community and suggest how best they can utilise that land through improved farming practices to alleviate the challenges of inadequate land and poor crop yields.
		e. Droughts are perceived to be particularly difficult as they impact both food and water security.	The UCSAT project will have Climate applications which include seasonal weather forecasts, monitoring and early warning products for drought, floods and pests and disease surveillance.
		f. Awareness of potential coping strategies is key and the Batwa should be given tailor made programs addressing; crop rotation, inter-cropping, crop diversification, tree planting, cash crops growing such as tea and coffee, animal husbandry, support towards bee-keeping, provision of agricultural inputs to support improved yields, post-harvest technologies and long-term planning can be potential strategies to address improved crop production in the communities of the Batwa;	Noted. Tailor made information related to cropping with challenges will be passed on to the Batwa.
		a. It is vital that, the Project has a tailor-made	The project will have inclusive and realistic

		<p>approach which is responsive to the needs and set up of the Batwa. Some sections of the Batwa communities do not have national identity cards and if have the identity cards is a compliance requirement to access project financing or otherwise, such groups will miss out;</p>	<p>requirements to enable the Batwa access project financing. Verification will factor in recommendations from LCs and cultural leaders for those without NID.</p>
		<p>it would also be worthwhile to draw on best practices and lessons from similar cases where similar types of interventions have worked amongst marginalized and vulnerable communities such as Batwa rather than to simply fit these groups into a program, that may not work well.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
		<p>d. Deliberate drive to grow alternate cash crops such as coffee, tea and agro-forestry is critical for the sustainability of these communities and the project needs to factor such into their plan for Batwa.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
		<p>UCSATP in its PMU should amongst its staffing should include a VMG Specialist who amongst others, is to ensure information regarding the project is accordingly packaged and delivered to and from VMGs for their effective and meaningful involvement in UCSATP;</p>	<p>The project will have a Social and Environmental specialist who will work with VMG Liaison personnel at grassroots level.</p>
		<p>UCSATP and MAAIF should focus on maximizing production more efforts are needed to end discrimination and domination against Indigenous communities and promote inclusive structures and processes</p>	<p>Noted</p>

		through legal and policy reforms.	
District Commercial Officer Kaabong (Thomas Lemu)	19 th April 2022	One the problem the Ik have is access to accurate weather information and such information ought to be readily available in their local dialects so that they are able to synchronize their cropping calendars. The UCSATP should avail programs of early warning to the communities so as to address cropping timings;	The UCSAT project will have Climate applications which include seasonal weather forecasts, monitoring and early warning products for drought, floods and pests and disease surveillance. The project will also ensure that this information is accessible and understandable by the VMGs
		The project should be careful in its design, operations and management of its revolving funds. For instance, when Government came with its Emyoga funds for small-scale interventions, the beneficiary community took it as a political hand-out and an appreciation after the elections.	The VMGs will be consulted during project preparation and design to ensure that it lays emphasis on the needs and expectations of the VMG communities and also sensitize them about the requirements and expectations of the project.
		There is need for adequate mobilization and sensitization about the project	MAAIF as the project proponent will use its existing local government structures. PMUs, CSOs operating in VMGs to mobilise and sensitize the communities about the project.
		UCSATP should provide Ik with simple mechanized agricultural equipment because lately cattle rustling has swept virtually all cows amongst the Ik people and they begin to feel safe without cattle for fear of rustlers;	Noted.
		f. Interest groups and vulnerable categories ought to have their resources and involvement be ring-fenced others often they are left out during implementation. What is	The project will be inclusive for all groups including the VMGs. The preparation of the VMGF will further inform the project implementation process in respect of the

		<p>key, let there be clear provisions for interventions meant for vulnerable groups in view of their uniqueness. In NUSAF 2 and 3 there was a special program and approach meant for Karamoja which should be the case under UCSATP otherwise these groups tend to miss out from programs where they are included in the overall project interventions</p>	<p>social dynamics of the VMGs.</p>
		<p>On the issue of GRM, when faced with complaints within the community -The IK always use their traditional GRM structures headed by elders known as 'Mgikaskou'. Issues resolved by the clan leaders include Marital issues Conflict over land. However, for issues that are criminal nature the formal grievance redress structures are used</p>	<p>Noted, the project will integrate the local community-based structures to build a robust and functional GRM structure that will serve the community and the IK</p>

9 ORGANIZATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF VMGF

The implementation of the VMGF will involve a range of stakeholders, each with specific mandate and responsibility. Irrespective of their mandate and level of engagement, the following organizations will participate in prevention/avoidance, minimizing or mitigation of the social impact on the VMGs.

Table 9-1: Roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the VMGF

Implementing Partners	VMGF Roles and Responsibilities
Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)	<p>MAAIF will be the lead implementing agency with primary operational guidance and implementation functions. MAAIF will take the overall responsibility of implementing UCSAT project through the established Project Implementing Unit (PCU); including ensuring the effective execution of the VMGF.</p> <p>A Project PCU comprised of senior level officials from the respective technical departments of MAAIF to take on responsibility for day-to-day management of the project. Among other staff, the PCU will be constituted by Environmental Specialist, Social Specialist, Financial Management Specialist and Procurement Management Specialist. MAAIF will undertake overall technical coordination and implementation of the project, coordinating the National level MDAs and the participating District Local Governments.</p> <p>Coordination of all social issues including on VMGs under the project will lie with the PCU. The Environment and Social Safeguard Specialist (ESSS) and the Social Development Specialist in the Ministry/PCU will oversee the preparation and implementation of the VMGP.</p>
District Local Government	<p>Given that the project will rely heavily on decentralized delivery mechanisms, the local governments (Districts) will have a key role in planning and oversight. To this end, each District will have a District Implementation Support Team (DIST), composed of relevant technical staff at the District (District Natural Resources Officer, District Environment Officer, District Community Development Officer, District Forest Officer, Wetlands Management Officer, District Labour Officer, District Gender Officer, District Probation officer and Community Based Officers), led by the District Production or Agriculture Officer. The DIST will meet regularly to discuss implementation activities, as well as activities generated by the communities. Specific to VMGs, DLGs will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with the PCUs (the Environmental and Social safeguards) to undertake District and sub-county level monitoring of the implementation of the VMGF/VMGP. • Undertake social screening to confirm presence as well as the participation of VMGs communities in their area of jurisdiction. • Mobilize the relevant communities/create awareness about the project. • Monitor mitigation measures intended to involve participation of the VMG communities in UCSATP Project. <p>Monitor the implementation of the VMGP on ground.</p>
The World Bank	<p>The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance. The Bank will provide technical and financial support</p>

	to ensure that the project is inclusive in implementation and does not promote any form of discrimination, human rights abuse or injustice among the Vulnerable and marginalized groups.
VMGs: Beneficiary Vulnerable and marginalized women's entrepreneur groups will be part of the actual implementers of the proposed project	<p>Among their roles will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend and make contributions during stakeholder meetings; • Participate in project implementation on the ground; • Participate in the monitoring of VMGP implementation; and Safeguard and maintain project infrastructure as applicable.
Local/Community Based Organisations, NGOs	<p>If deemed necessary, active local organisations such as, Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT), Mount Elgon Benet Indigenous Ogiek Group (MEBIO) and United Organisation for Batwa Development in Uganda (UOBDU) operating in the affected VMGs' communities may be called upon to support the DCDO and project personnel in not only mobilising VMGs to actively participate and benefit from the project but also in sharing their experiences and knowledge of working with VMGs. A number of NGOs have been instrumental in helping the VMGs stand up for their rights and continuous consultations with such NGOs is critical.</p> <p>Their roles include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Providing capacity building services to ensure participation of the IP groups. b. Sensitizing VMG communities on social and gender related issues <p>Sensitizing about livelihoods, savings, and their rights as IPs.</p>

9 MONITORING AND REPORTING MECHANISM

Baseline data collection on the socio-economic status and cultural practices of VMGs will be carried out during, as necessary and the development of ESMPs. These will form the basis for establishing baseline data to monitor the project impacts on VMGs. The subsequent VMGPs where required, will also specify systems of data collection and monitoring of the anticipated changes and will include Terms of Reference (ToR) for the monitoring agency/consultant. The respective PCUs will submit monitoring reports to the World Bank for review.

Monitoring will be the mechanism through which the implementers of the project will get the feedback about project progress, delays and problems. Monitoring enables timely responses while providing lessons on implementation strategies. It is expected that every identified vulnerable group will have its plan that will be used for verification of these, among others:

- Are all vulnerable groups in the project area identified?
- Are all groups equally participating in project decision-making?
- Are vulnerable groups treated with equal respect as decision makers, implementers, and participants?
- Are there measures that deliberately ensure inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized individuals and groups?
- Are those involved in project implementation continually encouraged to maintain vulnerable group inclusion in a non-judgemental environment?
- The project will support vulnerable and marginalized groups and other affected communities so that they are able to monitor the status of adverse social impacts and the effectiveness of mitigation measures outlined. The project will have to ensure that VMGs and communities are aware of the potential adverse impacts to monitor;
- The level of inclusiveness of VMGs in project activities
- The implementation of agreed activities; and
- The effectiveness of the conflict resolution and grievance settlement mechanisms.

9.1 Reporting Mechanisms

The M&E mechanisms adopted for the project will ensure that in addition to process and outcome indicators, appropriate impact indicators are defined related specifically to impacts on vulnerable groups and their livelihoods. These will include: how many vulnerable people participated actively and benefitted from project activities and documentation of their opinions on project impacts and if any of their specific concerns were addressed during implementation. In measuring the extent and quality of participation, it will be important to understand and capture how gender differences will affect the participation of girls and women in scheme activities. Gender analysis will therefore be an integral part of monitoring and evaluation of scheme activities.

The monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the project will ensure that in addition to process and outcome indicators appropriate impact indicators are defined related to specifically to impacts on vulnerable groups and their livelihoods. It is recommended that an impact evaluation be undertaken about 6 months before project completion to assess the changes in the overall living standards compared to the time before project implementation.

9.2 Indicators for the implementation of the Plan and Framework

Monitoring indicators for VMGs will include gender and vulnerability specific indicators, and monitoring reports will present data disaggregated by gender, vulnerability and location. To effectively monitor project impacts on VMGs, the baseline data for the project will include data on representative VMGs' households. The socioeconomic baseline indicators will be used for measuring participation, outcomes and impacts on vulnerable and marginalized communities. Key indicators for both benefits and VMGs' participation are indicated in table 7 below.

Table 9-1: Indicators for monitoring the implementation of the VMGF

Proposed Activities	Indicators	Source of data
Undertake consultations with VMGs as part of SEF implementation	Number of consultations with VMGs at various stages of project implementation	Consultative meeting reports
Conduct extensive culturally appropriate awareness on shared benefits among the IK, Tepeth, Benet and Batwa to address gender discrimination that may be triggered by implementation of the project.	Number of sensitization and awareness meetings/sessions using various media and platforms	Activity reports
Undertake project disclosure meetings (where applicable) on compensation of lost natural resources or cultural assets and other livelihoods support activities for the VMGs by the project.	Number of disclosure meetings undertaken among the VMGs	Quarterly and activity reports
Undertake community mobilization, sensitization and awareness creation of VMGs on risks of GBV/SEA/VAC associated with labour influx and project works.	Number of radio talk shows, community dialogues and meetings	Quarterly Progress reports
Identify and train champions in the VMG communities to support local level interventions on safety and management of accidents associated with implementation of the project.	Number of VMGs' established and trained in VMGs' communities	Training reports Field/Activity reports
Formation and training of Grievance redress committees in the VMG communities on reporting cases and supporting a GBV/SEA referral mechanism within the local governance structures.	Number of VMGs on both the local project committee and Grievance Redress Committee to manage and support GBV/SEA referrals	GRM Reports

Negative impact, if any shall also be monitored to determine how project implementation has triggered negative impact and to what extent the negative impact has been reduced.

Some of the UCSAT Project outcome indicators will include:

- a. Number of VMGs' households and individuals physically or economically displaced by the project;
- b. Number of VMGs' in the project reach that have not benefited from the project;
- c. Number of VMGs' that have been exposed to GBV and VAC in relation to the project;
- d. Number of VMGs' registered grievances.

9.3 Participatory Impact Monitoring (PIM)

The PIM will be based on the data gathered through the screening process and social assessments, the organizations of the VMGs, the relevant governmental structures (lands, forests, development and social) at district and sub-county levels, etc. The selection of the facilitators will be in close collaboration with the community leaders. It will be advisable to choose people who are able to elaborate on the basis of the PIM reports, which reflect the situation on the ground in a transparent and plausible way.

10 DISCLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR VMGF

11.1 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The UCSAT Project has developed a Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF) which provides for a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that will help implementing agencies identify

stakeholders and build and maintain a constructive relationship with them, in particular the project affected persons. The VMGs form a critical part of the project stakeholders.

The Environmental, Social Safeguards and Gender Specialists at MAAIF will provide technical support and ensure compliance with the VMGF by coordinating and working with the implementing agencies. The Communications Officer at MAAIF will liaise with the corresponding Communications Teams at the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) to ensure that all information on matters affecting VMGs are adequately addressed.

The Specialists team will provide the linkage between MAAIF, the VMGs and the Districts and sub-county administration on identification and management of VMGF related issues during the implementation of the sub-projects. The team will also be responsible for gathering information and feedback from the VMG communities and GRMs and channel them to the relevant governmental structures. The Specialists team will implement collaboration arrangements with Ministries, Departments and Agencies relevant for implementation of VMGF.

11.2 Disclosure

This VMGF and sub-project VMGPs will be made available to the affected VMGs in an appropriate and accessible form, manner, and language. Once this VMGF is approved by World Bank, it will be disclosed in the print media, on MAAIF website <https://www.agriculture.go.ug> and on the World Bank's Info shop.

During Project Appraisal, should it be confirmed that vulnerable groups are indeed present in the proposed project area, information from the VMGF, VMGP, and other relevant safeguard instruments will be disclosed to affected persons/ communities summarized in form of brochures or leaflets translated in the local language of the area. In case of changes made to the VMGF and VMGP, the same clearance and disclosure protocols will be followed.

12. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

Apart from the general project grievance procedures as already indicated in the ESMF, and SEF a grievance mechanism specific for VMGs will be put in place. According to WB ESF, ESS 7 emphasises that grievance mechanism should be culturally appropriate and accessible to affected Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities, and considers the availability of judicial recourse and customary dispute settlement mechanisms among Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities.

The project will prepare a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) through which, the project affected and interested persons, local communities and the public are able to raise issues on the UCSAT project. The GRM should guarantee privacy and confidentiality on the part of the aggrieved party.

This is to put in consideration that Vulnerable Marginalized Groups, they may encounter a grievance or a complaint against the project, its staff or during project implementation. To be effective, the mechanism shall utilize culturally appropriate existing local VMG administrative and community structures. All grievances will be addressed to and collected by the appropriate community VMG leader, and established GMCs. The GRM under ESS7 will be linked and follow the appeal processes of the community GRM with the participation of the VMG community leader.

12.1 Objectives

The Objectives of the Grievance Process are:

- a. To assist resolve complaints in a timely, effective and efficient manner
- b. Ensure that appropriate and mutually acceptable corrective actions are identified and implemented to address complaints;
- c. Confirm that complaints are satisfied with outcomes of corrective actions; and
- d. Avoid the need to resort to legal proceedings.

The project-level GRM will be culturally appropriate, effective, and accessible and should be known to the affected population. MAAIF will conduct awareness raising for the affected communities about the presence of the GRM and inform their right to file any concerns, complaints and issues they have related to the project.

Under this project the likely sources, grievances and concerns are bound to arise from the onset of the project given the inherent fears, among communities in regard to embracing new innovations. Promotion of Climate Smart Agricultural and sustainable land management (CSA/SLM) may require a Community Driven Development (CDD) approach which requires the project to orient community attitude towards climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystem protection and restoration. Activities are likely to be seen to present some undesirable social-economic and environmental impacts. Therefore, the need for a GRM that can be used by the VMG communities and the project implementers to communicate their project related fears and concerns implementation.

12.2 Grievance Redress Mechanism Composition

To be effective, the mechanism shall utilize existing local leadership, administrative and community structures. All grievances concerning non-fulfilment of contracts, levels of compensation, exclusion from sub project benefits, or take of assets without compensation, complaints about the CSA activities from farmer groups among others shall be addressed to the Local Council I Chairperson/or cultural leader and VMG coordinator. Before project commencement, MAAIF will work with the district officials (Community Development officer and Environmental offer) to reach to the communities in the presence of the LCI chairperson and VMG coordinator and representative of cultural leader to establish or compose grievance committees that will represent that communities in case of any grievances. The Social Safeguards Team at the MAIIF and PCUs shall work with community leaders

including leaders of the VMGs in the project area to set up Grievance Redress Committees to be the first point where grievances shall be lodged and addressed. The LC1 Grievance Committee shall comprise the at least 6 members including LC1 Chairperson; LC1 Secretary for Women and Children Affairs, VMGs' Chairperson and representation from each of youth, women, elderly and People with Disability (PWD) group from VMG community and elected community representative in the event that the community is mixed. Grievance committees shall be composed, at the district, sub-county, village levels.

Members seeking redress and wishing to record grievances will do so by notifying their Local Leader (LC 1 Chairperson) who will chair a Local Grievance Committee at LC 1 level set up with guidance of the Social Development Specialist. The Local Leader will inform and consult with the district administration to determine validity of claims. If valid, the Local Leader will convene a meeting of the LC1 Grievance Committee to resolve the grievance and notify the complainant of the outcome. If the complainant's claim is rejected, the matter shall be brought before the sub-county or district local government for settlement.

Any objections or grievances related to exclusion/marginalization shall be made in writing, in the language that the VMGs understand and are familiar with, to the Local Leader.

The grievance committee members who will be trained by the Social Safeguards team at the MAAIF using standard training materials shall maintain records of grievances and complaints, including minutes of discussions, recommendations and resolutions made. The procedure for handling grievances should be as follows:

- a. The affected person should file his/her grievance orally or in writing, to the Local Leader or member of the GMC who will record it in a grievance record book. The grievance note should be signed and dated by the aggrieved person. Where the affected person is unable to write, s/he should obtain assistance to write the note and emboss the letter with his/her thumbprint.
- b. The Local Leader should respond within 7 days during which any meetings and discussions to be held with the aggrieved person should be conducted. If the grievance relates to valuation of assets, a valuer may need to revalue the assets. In this case, the aggrieved person must be notified by the Local Leader that his/her complaint is being considered.
- c. If the aggrieved person does not receive a response or is not satisfied with the outcome within the agreed time s/he can lodge his grievance to the District Local Administration.
- d. The Local Administration will then attempt to resolve the problem (through dialogue and negotiation) within 7 days of the complaint being lodged.

UCSAT GRMs shall be Sub-project-based grievance redress procedure and will not in any way replace existing legal processes. It is common that most of the vulnerable and marginalized communities have traditional means and mechanisms of managing a community conflict or misunderstanding. As is normal practice under customary law, attempts will be made to ensure that the traditional and/or religious leaders have the first opportunity to resolve all disputes in communities after a thorough investigation of the facts. The traditional/communal dispute resolution structures existing for each of the VMGs will be used as the first step in resolving grievances. They will be handling issues regarding rightful property ownership where there is a dispute especially where there is no legal documentation of those properties in question.

MAAIF will develop and implement GRM guideline that details the procedure, timing, indicative committee members, etc. Resources will be allocated for the GRM. The complaints recorded, resolved and referred will be reported quarterly and annually together with the environmental and social implementation performance report. All attempts shall be made to settle grievances amicably before resorting to courts of law. Every effort will be made towards ensuring that the grievance redress procedures are made simple, least bureaucratic and administered as fast and far as possible.

The complainants shall have recourse to the courts of law in the country any time they feel aggrieved. However, given the fact that legal process can be daunting, expensive and at most confusing especially for the poor and vulnerable, the project GRM shall endeavour at all times to be the first point of call for grievances. If the grievance procedure fails to provide a result, complainants are free to seek legal redress in the Uganda Courts of Law.

12.3 Grievance Log Documentation and Recording

Documentation of complaints and grievances is important, including those that are communicated informally and orally. These should be logged, assessed, assigned to individuals for management, tracked and closed out or “signed off” when resolved, ideally with the complainant(s) being consulted, where appropriate, and informed of the resolution. Records provide a way of understanding patterns and trends in complaints, disputes and grievances over time. Transparency should be maintained – for example, through regular reports on issues raised and rates of resolution – provision should also be made for confidentiality of information or anonymity of the complainant(s) whenever necessary.

A grievance log (See Sample under annex II) will be established by the UCSATP PCUs, Social Safeguards teams and copies of the records kept with all the relevant authorities at the respective district, sub-county and village levels and will be used in monitoring of complaints and grievances.

12.4 GBV/ SEA/ SH referral pathways

Sexual Exploitation is defined as any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another. A clear distinction has to be drawn between SEA and SH. SEA occurs against a beneficiary or member of the community while SH occurs between personnel/staff and involves any unwelcome sexual advance or unwanted verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.^[1]

Projects that involve civil works many times are potential avenues for people who wield power to abuse their positions hence the need to have a GBV/SEA/SH risk mitigation and referral pathway.

Reporting sexual harassment helps put an end to offensive behavioural and encourages other victims to speak up. Therefore, for this VMGF, the grievance mechanisms shall co-opt a VMG representative or coordinator to capture and address GBV related complaints specific to the VMG communities. The complainants will remain anonymous to ensure that there is confidence in the GRM and also mitigate against any risk of retribution. Capacity building will be done to ensure that the committee members representing VMGs get appropriate training on matters related to GBV/SEA/SH.

In a formal reporting, the following procedure should be undertaken using the report form;

- a. Getting the details of the Victim of GBV by GBV focal person
- b. Documenting the details of the Case
- c. Preparing witnesses to engage other Legal Actors like the Police
- d. Establishing the appropriate procedure including the need to for medical examination of the victim and the perpetrator
- e. Producing a comprehensive report to enable duty bearers assess and take appropriate actions
- f. Submitting the report to Duty Bearers like Uganda Police, State Attorneys and Courts
- g. Follow up of GBV Cases and victims to ensure appropriate services are accessed by the Victim

12.5 Monitoring Complaints

Data on community interactions from low-level concerns and complaints to ongoing disputes and higher-order grievances shall be collected quarterly so that patterns can be identified, and project management alerted to high-risk issues. Effective monitoring may also help to prevent the escalation of lower-level disputes into more serious conflicts.

12.6 Capacity Building for the Grievances Management Committees

A team (Social Safeguard Specialist and PCU) can be constituted from the MAAIF to train the grievance committees on how to handle project related complaints. In the execution of their responsibilities, the respective committees will seek support and advice from any other relevant official(s) from time to time depending on the matter being handled.

12.7 World Bank Redress Service

The World Bank has a Grievance Redress Service (GRS) whose objective is to make the Bank more accessible for project affected communities and to help ensure faster and better resolution of project-related complaints. The GRS is open to all those who believe they have been affected or harmed by a Bank-financed project and who feel their issues have not been resolved by the implementing Agency's PCUs. The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address pertinent concerns. Affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the WB's independent Inspection Panel which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of WB non-compliance with its policies and procedures. Complaints may be submitted at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the World Bank's attention, and Bank Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank's corporate Grievance Redress Service (GRS), please visit <http://www.worldbank.org/GRS>.

For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel, please visit <http://www.inspectionpanel.org>.

13. VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED GROUP MANAGEMENT PLAN

13.1 GUIDELINES

Vulnerable Group Plans will be prepared once sub-project activities have been identified in areas where VGs are present. This plan will be undertaken as part of the screening activities outlined in the ESMF. Based on the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), the project will develop appropriate mitigation measures and livelihood enhancement activities for vulnerable and marginalized groups. A VMGP will address;

- a. Aspirations, needs, and preferred options of the effected VMGs,
- b. Potential positive and negative impacts on VMGs;
- c. Measures to avoid, mitigate, or compensate for adverse project effects;
- d. Measures to ensure project benefits will accrue to VMGs;
- e. Measures to strengthen the capacity of Local Governments and relevant government departments to address VMGs issues;
- f. The possibility of involving local organizations and non-governmental organizations with expertise in VMGs issues;
- g. Detailed budget allocations for implementation of VMGMP; and
- h. Monitoring framework for VMGMP. MAAIF will submit the VMGP to the Bank for review and approval prior to commencement of project works.

The Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups Management Plan shall be prepared in a flexible and implementable manner, and its level of detail will depend on keys issues and nature of effects to be addressed. The VMGP shall, among other things, include the following elements:

- a. A summary of the Social Impact Assessment
- b. An action plan of measures to ensure that VMGs receive social and economic benefits that are culturally appropriate, including, if necessary to enhance the capacity of the project implementing agency.
- c. Appropriate action plan which includes measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for the adverse effects.
- d. The cost estimates and financing plan for VMGMP.
- e. Accessible procedures appropriate to the project to address grievances by the affected VMGs' communities arising from project implementation.
- f. Mechanisms and benchmarks appropriate to the subproject for monitoring and evaluating, and reporting on the implementation of the VMGs. The monitoring and evaluating mechanisms should include arrangements for the free, prior, and informed consultation with the affected VMGs.

13.2 Steps in Preparation of the VMGP

Determining the Presence of VMG

After the project locations are identified, or when activities have been identified in areas where Vulnerable Groups are present, MAAIF PCU including the social safeguard specialist will undertake screening as part of the screening activities outlined in the ESMF to determine the presence of VMGs.

Screening is a necessary requirement prior to implementation to determine if vulnerable and marginalized people are present in the project area or have an attachment to the project activities. In conducting this screening, the PCU team as well as social safeguard specialist with knowledge on the social behaviors in the project area will be considered.

Consultations with the VMGs concerned and the MAAIF will be undertaken. The existing administrative structures at district levels where the VMGs are located (Batwa, IK, Benet and Tepeth) will be used to inform the vulnerable and marginalized communities about the proposed project and arrange for consultative meetings. Community leaders as well as VMG leaders will also be involved in

dissemination of information about the meetings where need arises. Local radio stations may be used to communicate the meeting dates, venues, and purpose.

To ensure inclusive participation:

- a. Consultations should be conducted in local languages where the Batwa, IK, Benet and Tepeth are found
- b. Representatives of the vulnerable and marginalized groups in collaboration with the local administration in the project area will agree on a venue that is considered by way of mutual consensus as appropriate.
- c. Provide adequate notice for the consultation meetings and allow time for consensus building, and the articulation by VMGs of their views and preferences.
- d. Ensure the time chosen for the meetings is appropriate for majority of the VMGs to attend.

Screening will be done using a screening check list in a collaborative and consultative approach. The CSA Environmental and Social Specialists will prepare the screening forms for the Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups Framework (VMGF).

Plan for Social Assessment for VMGs

During the planning and preparation of VMGP, the need for a social assessment (SA) is key in order to understand socio-cultural context and aspects of VMGs, potential social risks and impacts in project areas where the VMGs are located to inform preparation of the VMGP. It will gather relevant information on demographic data: social, cultural and economic situation; and impacts. This information will be gathered through separate group meetings within the vulnerable and marginalized communities, including leaders, NGOs, CBOs, and affected persons. Discussions will focus on potential positive and negative impacts of the subprojects; measures to enhancing positive impacts and strategies/options to minimize and/or mitigate negative impacts.

The social assessment includes the following elements, as needed:

- a. A review, on a scale appropriate to the project, and institutional framework applicable to vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- b. Gathering of baseline information on the demographics, social, cultural and political characteristics of the affected vulnerable and marginalized groups' communities, the land and territories that they have traditionally owned or customarily used or occupied, and the natural resources on which they depend.
- c. Taking the review and baseline information into account, the identification of key stakeholders and the elaboration of a culturally appropriate process for consulting with VMGs at each stage of project preparation and implementation.
- d. An assessment, with the affected VMGs communities, of the potential adverse and positive effects of the relative vulnerability of, risks to land and natural resources as well as their lack of access to opportunities relative to their social groups in the communities, regions, or national societies in which they live.
- e. The identification and evaluation, of the VMGs communities, of measures necessary to avoid adverse effects, or if such measures are not feasible, the identification of measures to minimize, mitigate, or compensate for such effects, and to ensure that VNGs receive culturally appropriate benefits under the subproject.

14. BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VMGF

Costs required to plan and implement the VMGF will be incorporated in the project implementation budget. The project implementation budget will include detailed annual costs allocated for the required activities of preparation and implementation of VMGPs as needed. For implementation of VMGF and preparation of the VG Plans, PCU through its social specialist will conduct screening, social assessments, awareness raising, to the VGs on the various subproject activities.

All mitigation activities and benefits included in the Social Assessment and the VMGP will be budgeted under the project. Detailed budget breakdown will be provided during the development of the

Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups Plan (VMGP) Specific activities for the implementation of this framework are provided below.

Table 14-1: Proposed VMGF Budget

Component/Activity	Timing	Responsibility	Amount (USD)
Consultations with VGs including mobilization, translation of reports, and special focus meetings for IK, Tepth, Batwa and Benet	Before and during project implementation	MAIIF-PCU	300,000
Recruitment of field project safeguard officers for IK, Tepth, Batwa and Benet. Hiring of VMG specialist	During project implementation	MAIIF-PCU	300,000
Development and implementation of the Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups Plan (VMGP) for IK, Tepth, Batwa and Benet	Before and during project implementation	MAIIF-PCU	500,000
Awareness and sensitisation of VMG communities (HIV/AIDS, SGBV, Child protection) for IK, Tepth, Batwa and Benet	During project implementation	MAIIF-PCU	500,000
Stakeholder consultations including district leadership meetings on management of social impacts of the project for IK, Tepth, Batwa and Benet	Monitoring to be done every quarter throughout project implementation	MAIIF-PCU LGs and other relevant departments	400,000
Composition and training of a Grievance Redress Committees (training materials, transportation, venues, allowances, etc) for IK, Tepth, Batwa and Bene	During project implementation, composition of committees at respect districts of the IK, Tepeth, Benet and Batwa.	MAIIF-PCU, GRCs	150,000
Total (USD)			2,150,000

References


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5. Laws of Uganda, Revised Edition, 2000. Uganda Wildlife Act, Cap 200.
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11. Minority Rights Group (2008). The Right to Learn: Batwa Education in the Great Lakes Region of Africa.
12. National Environment Act 2019
13. Project Concept Note (PCN) for Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project, World Bank, May 2021.
14. Project Appraisal Document (PAD), 2022
15. Whitney Moret (2014), Vulnerability Assessment Methodologies: A Review of the Literature

10 ANNEXES

10.1 ANNEX I: STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

The virtual meetings were employed to gather views from stake holders. The Consultant sent advance information to the stakeholder emphasizing the objective of the meeting(s), brief on the project and issues that were to share in the meeting. A summary of the proceedings from the Meetings is herein attached.

Below are summaries of the discussions from the virtual meetings.

		Meeting with the Equal Opportunities Commission.		
		DATE	29th April 2022	
		MEETING	START	12:00noon
			END	01:00pm
MINUTES BY		Mr. Nelson Omagor		
Venue of meeting	A virtual Meeting by Mr. Nelson Omagor, Environmental and Social Safeguards Consultant and Ms. Josephine Apajo (Tel. 076285770), Senior Compliance Officer, Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC).			
Subject of the Meeting	Stakeholder consultations on the planned Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project with specific reference to involvement of the Equal Opportunities Commission.			
<p>The Meeting focused on the following aspects which had earlier been communicated to Ms. Josephine. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the mandate of EOC link with that of the Agriculture sector? i.e. how does EOC inform the sectoral role of agriculture? • What are some of the societal disparities in communities in their involvement in agriculture? • What factors drive societies disparities (differences in levels of gainful involvement and benefits in agriculture)? • Have there been any efforts to address such concerns? What were/are some of the successes then? • How is EOC involved in climate change adaptations drives in the country? • In what areas can EOC effectively inform the planned UCSATP project? 				
<p>The Consultant introduced the Project and outlined its objectives, planned activities as well as coverage and of the refugees amongst the vulnerable people. The project is called Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project and MAAIF and that, services of JBN Consults and Planners Ltd had been retained for these services in keeping the World Bank requirements during project preparations. He added the project is answer to dwindling agricultural production occasioned largely by erratic climatic changes. As part of the project preparation process, its required that some of the key environmental and social safeguards documents need to be prepared and these include; ESMF, SEF and VMGF which is why the meeting now to provide input to these processes.</p>				
<p>How does the mandate of EOC link with that of the agriculture sector? i.e. how does EOC inform the sectoral role of agriculture?</p> <p>Equal Opportunities Commission is responsible for promoting Equal Opportunities, Affirmative Action, Gender and Equity with the overarching objective of eliminating marginalization and discrimination among the vulnerable Women and Girls; based on the strategic principles and shared aspirations of “leaving no one behind” under the global agenda 2030 with the 17 Sustainable development goals (SDGs).</p>				

The mandate of Equal Opportunities Commission was further strengthened with the enactment of the PFMA 2015, which placed Gender and Equity Budgeting at the center of public finance management in Uganda. The PFMA has specific provisions on Gender and Equity in Sections 9 (1), (6, (a), (b) and 13 (15) (g) (i) and (ii), which require all Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and Local Governments to address gender and equity issues in their Budget Framework Papers (BFPs) and Ministerial Policy Statements (MPS) by specifying measures to address existing inequalities and

MDAs and LGs that do not comply are denied the Certificate of Gender and Equity hence non-approval of their budgets by Budget Committee of Parliament and the Laws compels 20% penalty (deductions) from the current budget

Therefore, the Mandate of EOC in agriculture sector is:

- Promote, Monitor and evaluate equal opportunities, affirmative action, gender and equity concerns in the agriculture sector affecting the most vulnerable women, men, youth, persons with disabilities among others;
- Review agriculture sector laws, policies, plans and projects for compliance with equal opportunities, affirmative action, gender and equity targeting the most vulnerable communities;
- Audit agriculture programmes and projects for compliance to equal opportunities, gender and equity; and
- Conduct training and capacity building of duty bearers in equal opportunities, gender and equity for MDAs and Local Governments.

What are some of the societal disparities in communities in their involvement in agriculture?

- In Uganda most communities have preferred staple food – this informs the type of food varieties planted and consumed within the communities
- Level of income
- Ethnicity and agriculture
- Terrain (location) and agriculture
- Access to financing for agriculture
- Access to technology – some parts of this country use cows, ox-plough, hand hoes etc.
- Cultural constraints to access to land by women and youth for agriculture
- Cultural constraints on marketing for agricultural produce by women and youth including children.

What factors drive societies disparities (differences in levels of gainful involvement and benefits in agriculture)?

- Cultural norms, and practices
- Land tenure system and hoe men, women and youth benefit from land
- Access to financing
- Structural inequalities
- Poor mindset
- Lack of information on available opportunities.

Have there been any efforts to address such concerns? What were/are some of the successes then?

- Tribunal –court to address concerns of marginalization and discrimination especially project affected persons
- Conducted sensitization and promotional activities on promotion of agricultural among the youth
- EOC has conducted audits and surveys on the level access, participation and benefit in terms of agriculture
- Produced gender and equity guidelines to guide the implementation climate change


- EOC has a GEMIS system to generate all climate change related activities committed by the country over the years

How is EOC involved in climate change adaptations drives in the country?

- Develop gender and equity godliness/compacts/handbooks for mitigation of climate change
- Review MDA workplans and budgets to assess how much resources have been allocated to climate change
- Follow-up with the MDAs on their commitments on climate change

In what areas can EOC effectively inform the planned UCSATP project?

- EOC to define the term vulnerable persons and provide the list of the most vulnerable persons target could be targeted under the project
- Inform the training and capacity building plan; focusing on gender and equity responsive planning and budgeting targeting both the project managers and the beneficiaries
- Review the project goals, outcomes, objectives, outputs and interventions for sensitivity to gender and equity concerns
- Review and provide guidance on how to engender the proposed outcome indicators and output indicators, data collection of gender and equity responsive data and dissemination of gender and equity responsive data
- Develop gender and equity guidelines for inclusion of the most vulnerable in the project planning and implementation
- Provide free legal services for the most vulnerable – in case of discrimination/marginalization
- Provide input in the project activities


		Meeting with the UNHCR.		
		DATE	26th April 2022	
		MEETING	START	09:30 am
			END	10:45 am
MINUTES BY		Mr. Nelson Omagor		
Venue of meeting	A virtual Meeting by Mr. Nelson Omagor, Environmental and Social Safeguards Consultant and Mr. Okwii David, Programme Officer, United Nations High Commission for Refugees-UNHCR (0700818816).			
Subject of the Meeting	Stakeholder consultations on the planned Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project with specific reference to involvement of the vulnerable refugee communities who are amongst the Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups.			
<p>Background</p> <p>The Consultant introduced the Project and outlined its objectives, planned activities as well as coverage and of the refugees amongst the vulnerable people. The project is called Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project and MAAIF and that, services of JBN Consults and Planners Ltd had been retained for these services in keeping the World Bank requirements during project preparations. He added the project is answer to dwindling agricultural production occasioned largely by erratic climatic changes. As part of the project preparation process, its required that some of the key environmental and social safeguards documents need to be prepared and these include; ESMF, SEF and VMGF which is why the meeting now to provide input to these processes.</p>				
<p>Overview on the proposed project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Uganda Agriculture is mainly dependent on rain therefore the climate shocks will continue to have significant direct and indirect impacts on agricultural productivity and incomes so there is need to build resilience to climatic shocks; • The Consultant asked Mr. Okwii livelihood status amongst refugees; issues of climate change and refugee livelihoods and how in his opinion are refugees contributing to climate change; • What could be likely response scenarios to be pursued to ensure sustainability of interventions in the refugees set ups; and • What could be areas of interventions the project could have with respect to refugee areas. 				
<p>Submission by Mr. David Okwii.</p> <p>In the discussion Mr. David Okwii submitted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uganda is currently hosting the largest number of refugees in the region with over 1.45 million refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Burundi. Recently arrived refugees have joined Rwandese, Somali, and other refugees that have lived in Uganda for decades. Due to the large number of refugees, the range of countries of origin, and the varying lengths of displacement, there are key information gaps on how access to or lack of housing, land, and property (HLP) for refugees impact their sustainable livelihoods; • The influx of refugees has exacerbated a range of environmental impacts and associated challenges, including land degradation and woodland loss, resulting in inadequate access to energy for cooking and competition with local people for water and other natural resources. This has meant that, refugee settlement areas have been prone to environment degradation a situation that merits urgent attention; • The majority of refugee households engage in agriculture-based livelihoods, usually subsistence farming. A small proportion of refugee households have other income (for example, cash transfers, brewing, selling wood fuel, tailoring, teaching, transporting items, selling cooking oil, blacksmithing, selling dried fish or casual work in local food outlets); • Much as GoU allocates a piece of land to refugees, the land allocation is done on family basis and even when a family size grows, the size of the land allocated remains 30x50m implying that, 				

with time cultivation opportunities greatly reduce and both at intra and inter households' conflicts begin to grow due to competing needs for the small land area;

- Of great concern, the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) has reported that starting April 2022, it reduced its food ration allocation to refugees in Uganda to 40% due to increasing funding shortages. WFP provides the refugees with monthly relief assistance in the form of in-kind food or cash to meet their basic food needs. The level of assistance depends on funding availability. Households in refugee settlements are therefore projected to face deeper food crisis if no interventions are put in place to address this crisis;
- Areas hosting refugees are also prone to climatic shocks unfortunately, the refugees have limited coping mechanisms because their options are limited in terms of land and other resources; and
- Due to the pandemic, Uganda's refugee population has been affected in various sectors, including employment, food security, and mental health. The unemployment rate for the refugee population rose from 44% in March 2020 to 68% by March 2022.
- What can work and how can UCSATP be implemented in refugee communities in view of the status:
 - The project should formulate interventions that match the set-up of refugees bearing in mind, they have limited land which limits their options that could fit into the UCSATP. For instance, tree planting cannot be feasible for them because of land scarcity and related fragility dynamics;
 - A very clear and deliberate mechanism be used to identify refugee groups or individuals to participate in the project because of a couple of limitations namely;
 - Not all refugees are keen on agriculture, many like positioning themselves around new programs only to pick and pocket hand-out, they are not interested in long-term interventions; and
 - Agriculture especially the back-yard done on plots in the settlements is mainly by women and a few elderly and energetic men as such, the project should mainly target that category.
 - Adopting a multilevel humanitarian response for improved climate resilience as done already by ACTED which has helped farmers. One of their interventions involves training vulnerable populations on better farming practices, which will enable them to acquire good agricultural skills for improved vegetable growing and to protect their assets, while ensuring productivity and livelihoods can resist the stresses and shocks induced by climate change;
 - Supporting rural financing by using village network models such as registered groups inside refugee settlements, Community Agricultural Extension Workers (CAEWs) and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) that help their members practicing income generating activities that have a bearing of income generation and livelihoods at household levels which is through agriculture;
 - Identifying and working with agencies which are driving interventions focused on addressing impacts of droughts and floods, building resilience to climate change induced shocks and stresses, improving livelihoods amongst vulnerable communities in refugee settlements. For instance, in Bidibidi, there is a similar program code-named Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) consortium by ACTED. The program focuses on building the capacity and skills of the agro- pastoralist communities to implement climate smart practices, diversify their livelihoods, and anticipate, absorb and adapt shocks and stresses at personal, household and community levels. Through these activities, the ultimate purpose is to enable communities to identify hazards, mitigate risks and establish disaster information sharing and improve their own coping strategies.

Reaction from JBN Consults

The Consultant informed Mr. David Okwii that, these ideas are quite informative and would very much inform the final preparation of the UCSATP with respect to its focus and how best it can be implemented in refugee areas.

		Meeting with the NEMA.		
		DATE		26th April 2022
		MEETING	START	02:30 pm
			END	03:15 pm
MINUTES BY		Mr. Nelson Omagor		
Venue of meeting	A virtual Meeting by Mr. Nelson Omagor, Environmental and Social Safeguards Consultant and Mr. Arnold Waiswa, Director Environment Monitoring and Compliance, 26th April 2022 (0772471139).			
Subject of the Meeting	Stakeholder consultations on the planned Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project with specific reference to role of NEMA in the project.			
The Meeting focused on the following aspects				
<p>Background</p> <p>The Consultant introduced the Project and outlined its objectives, planned activities as well as coverage and of beneficiary areas. The project is called Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project and MAAIF and that, services of JBN Consults and Planners Ltd had been retained for these services in keeping the World Bank requirements during project preparations. He added the project is answer to dwindling agricultural production occasioned largely by erratic climatic changes. As part of the project preparation process, its required that some of the key environmental and social safeguards documents need to be prepared and these include; ESMF, SEF and VMGF which is why the meeting now to provide input to these processes.</p>				
<p>Overview on the proposed project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Uganda Agriculture is mainly dependent on rain therefore the climate shocks will continue to have significant direct and indirect impacts on agricultural productivity and incomes so there is need to build resilience to climatic shocks; and • The Consultant sought clarifications from NEMA on how the Agency could be involved to support it with regard to environmental and social compliance. How can such compliance measures be sustained? 				
<p>Submission by Mr. Arnold Waiswa.</p> <p>In the discussion Mr. Arnold Waiswa submitted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Project, NEMA will play its mandatory role with the regard to coordinating, monitoring, regulating and supervising environmental aspects in development projects in the country; • The Agency will be key with respect to ensuring appropriate levels of environmental assessments are conducted depending of the levels environmental risks envisaged in the projects; • NEMA will be key in monitoring environmental compliance of the sub-projects under UCSATP as such all process of conducting Environmental Assessments have to be done in line with the laws and guidelines which makes easier for them to come on board as per the Conditions in Certificates of Approvals for the subprojects. • However, this project has a component on natural resources restoration etc. This is not going to be an easy task due to a number of different actors with a stake on environment. He cited a case where for instance, much as wetlands are for example, wetlands are held in trust by Central Government or local Government for the common good of the people of Uganda, recent examples of wetland abuse have included cases where Local Authorities have been the very violators of these constitutional and legal provisions. Where this has happened, local authorities have indicated that they converted wetlands for the sake of providing their communities with economic growth opportunities and for fighting poverty. It is therefore a dilemma that the very institutions entrusted with the protection of wetlands have in some cases not assisted the crusade for their conservation. In his submission, he cautioned that, restoration 				

of degraded ecosystems should be undertaken a coordinated and wholistic manner with such plans developed participatorily and involving well keyed out stakeholders such as; farmers, pastoralists, women, men and youth on top of community, district and national leaderships otherwise such interventions can end up brewing conflict and utmost failure of the project;


- In addition to the above, there has also been a problem of wetland filling during holidays and awkward hours when those dumping probably have full knowledge that enforcement staff are not on duty. It remains an uphill task to prosecute these cases, and the affected wetlands can hardly recover their original state even if the culprits are required to restore them;
- Over the recent years, there appears to be increasing cases of activities being implemented in wetlands in the name of fighting against poverty. While some of these activities are out-rightly not compatible with wetland conservation nor wise use goals, their promoters have vigorously defended them as intended to assist in the fight against poverty. Activities such as brick making in wetlands which are done for economic gains have tended to give no regard at all to conservation nor restoration of the affected wetlands. It is probable that this attitude stems from the old perception that wetlands in their natural state are wasted land;
- The issue of alternative livelihood sources especially for those cultivating in fragile ecosystems especially wetlands if not well addressed will make restoration of natural resources a hurdle. In addition, even aspects of use of wood fuel as source of energy leaves communities in a dilemma with respect to alternatives; and
- It is noticeable that, farmers in most parts of the country face increasing problems of crop pests. While generally puzzled about its precise causes, many when you interact with them connect this to an overall changing climate and an increase in extreme weather events in the country, including prolonged droughts as well as heavy rainfall and flooding. Though they grapple with effort to use agro-chemicals, this has its own challenges in terms of handling, application and disposal of unused or packaging materials. The question is, does UCSATP have measures of ensuring safe handling and application of pesticides? Apart from pesticides, does the project have measures for promotion of organic fertilizers?

What can work and how UCSATP can be implemented in regard to above concerns raised:

- The Agency is available to collaborate with the Project with regard to all its processes of environmental and social safeguards compliance. They are available to support timely delivery of environmental assessments approvals and any applicable environmental clearances as well as supervision of project activities in the field;
- NEMA is of opinion that, the Project works closely with District Environment Officers in the respective beneficiary districts because the officers are well placed to conduct field observations during implementation of sub-projects and the DEOs prepare monthly environmental reports to NEMA on how sustainability aspects in the district are being done and general compliance of projects in their districts;
- The discussion fronted the idea of clear institutional framework with respect to restoration of degraded wetlands needs to provide for involvement of users of wetlands who should clearly know what has been agreed upon, their expected involvement and any conditions to be observed when accessing wetlands. This is key if not, there will be continued degradation of wetlands;
- The roles of community leaders need to be clarified and they made to know they are the first line of protection of wetlands in the communities and should be able to support government efforts to save wetlands;
- Training farmers of IPM will go a long way to careful use and application of agro-chemicals as well as appropriate irrigation technologies is vital in improving water availability in crop production drives at household levels.

Reaction from JBN Consults

The Consultant informed Mr. Arnold Waiswa, these ideas are quite informative and would very much inform the final preparation of the UCSATP with respect to its focus and how best it can be implemented in refugee areas.

		Meeting with UNMA		
		DATE		27th April 2022
		MEETING	START	02:30 pm
			END	03:00 pm
MINUTES BY		Mr. Nelson Omagor		
Mode of Meeting	Virtual Meeting by with Mr. James Bataze, Principal Uganda National Meteorological Authority-UNMA (0782103950/0704726166).			
Subject of the Meeting	Stakeholder consultations on the planned Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project with specific reference to role of Uganda National Meteorological Authority-UNMA in the project.			
<p>The Meeting focused on the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what are some of the key climatic or weather challenges Ugandan farmers are exposed today? • How have such challenges impacted on agriculture at national and household levels? • Does agriculture itself have a contribution to climate change and if so in what ways? • How do you think such challenges can be addressed by the stakeholders (government, communities and the farmers)? • What role does UNMA play in supporting agricultural production? • How can UNMA ensure its support to farming is meaningful or that, local farmers can access and utilize services of UNMA in the project. 				
<p>What are some of the key climatic or weather challenges our farmers are exposed to today?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers are faced with the following weather and climate challenges: • Prolonged dry spells which affect the crop phenological stages such as germination, weeding, flowering, fruiting, ripening and harvesting of crops; • Drought conditions which lasts from 1-3 months greatly affects agriculture production; • Extremely high rainfall affects the farmers as it leads to low yields, water logging which causes water logging of the gardens and this makes the cultivation of crops to be difficult; • Flooding which leads to massive loss of crops and animals as a result of the farmlands being flooded and so transport becomes difficult to move produce as wetlands are impassable; • Limited access to weather and climate information by the farmers; • Low awareness creation and sensitization about the importance of using weather and climate information. • Pests and disease are some of the challenges which affect farmers as their crops are attacked and destroyed which leads to losses resulting into food insecurity and famine. • Animal diseases which affect farmer's herds, this happens when there is an outbreak of diseases. • Climate change and variability which has led to increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, pests and diseases. Climate variability has resulted into the changes in the mean state of the atmosphere leading to global warming. This has resulted into the shifting of the rainfall seasons and hence rainfall becoming unreliable which affects the farmers' activities. <p>How have such challenges impacted on agriculture at national and household levels?</p> <p>The challenges mentioned above are the main drivers of food insecurity and poverty at national and household levels. Households have problems of food security with poor incomes.</p> <p>Does agriculture itself have a contribution to climate change and if so in what ways? Yes</p> <p>Agriculture contributes to climate change in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through livestock production where the ruminants emit methane which is a Greenhouse gas (GHG) which leads to depletion of ozone layers thus warming of the atmosphere. • Through use of chemical fertilizers which emits GHGs of the Chloro-hydrocarbons into the atmosphere. 				

- Through clearing Land for agriculture which leads to bush burning and cutting down of forests which emit GHGs in the atmosphere.
- Through paddy rice growing in the wetlands which emit Nitrous Oxide as a GHG into the atmosphere.

How do you think such challenges can be addressed by the stakeholders (government, communities and the farmers)?

The challenges can be solved using the following means:


- Collective collaborations and partnerships between government and other stakeholders.
- Increasing funding for UNMA in order to address the challenges of educating the communities.
- Strengthening stakeholders’ engagements amongst the key players.
- Establishing weather and climate frameworks to the challenges.

What role does UNMA play in supporting agricultural production?

UNMA is the sole provider of weather and climate services for the Agriculture and different sectors of the economy. UNMA provides early warning information and advisories for planning and decision making for the farmers and other users.

How can UNMA ensure its support to farming is meaningful or that, local farmers can access and utilize services of UNMA in the project.

- Strengthen the dissemination of weather and climate information to all users and districts of Uganda.
- Carry out sensitization and awareness creation on the importance of weather and climate information.
- Increase the accuracy and number of Agro-meteorological weather tailored products for the farmers.
- Build the capacity of the district extension staff in the interpretation of weather forecasts to the farmers.
- Provide more funding to UNMA handle these activities

	Meeting with MoGLSD		
	DATE		28th April 2022
	MEETING	START	08:30 am
		END	09:00 am
	MINUTES BY		Mr. Nelson Omagor

Mode of Meeting	Virtual Meeting with Mr. James Ebitu, Director Social Protection; Directorate of Social Protection in the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development (0772517531).
Subject of the Meeting	Stakeholder consultations on the planned Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project with specific reference to role of Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development-MoGLSD.

The Meeting focused on the following aspects:

- What is the link between MoGLSD and MAAIF with respect to gender in particular and social sector at large;
- How key is gender in agriculture sector in Uganda?
- To what extent does climate change generally impact on gender in Uganda?
- Does gender on its part have impact on climate change?
- How does climate change impact on agriculture with respect to gender?
- How can gender be effectively mainstreamed to UCSATP?

Submission and Discussions on the above

What is the link between MoGLSD and MAAIF with respect to gender in particular and social sector at large?

- In a way, the Social Development Sector by mandate as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda has the role to empower communities to harness their potential through skills development, labour productivity and cultural growth for sustainable and gender responsive development. It therefore means, the Sector works with MAAIF to see to it those involved in agriculture are supported to facilitate their productivity and development of skills for better agricultural production. In addition, works with MAAIF to ensure the agricultural sector is gender responsive in terms of policies, laws, programs, projects and activities; and
- Multiple instruments also exist to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the agriculture sector. Most powerfully, the 2015 Public Finance Management Act obliges all ministries (including MAAIF), to prepare gender and equity responsive budget framework papers as a basis for sector-specific ministerial policy statements. Moreover, the act provides that the MoFPED, in consultation with the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), issue a Gender and Equity Certificate specifying that the national budget framework paper is gender and equity responsive.

These show that, MoGLSD has therefore placed due instruments that are geared to ensuring effective mainstreaming of gender into the agricultural sector for its meaningful and effective involvement in agricultural production and sustainable development.

How key is gender in agriculture sector in Uganda?

- Women play a vital role in Uganda's rural agricultural sector and contribute a higher than average share of crop labour in the region. They also make up more than half of Uganda's agricultural workforce, and a higher proportion of women than men work in farming 76% versus 62%;
- However, at the rural level, women's rights to ownership of land tends to rest on their relationships with men as wives, mothers, sisters or daughters. It is estimated that, much as about 79% of agricultural households own land, a meager 20% is solely managed by women and where land is jointly owned by a husband and wife, most decisions are made by the husband. Whereas land is key in production, decision on access, use and ownership are outside women meaning, women are limited in long-term planning in production. This is one of the key challenges with respect to women involvement in the sector activities;
- Gender differences exist in crops cultivated at household levels. Women prefer more to cultivate crops for household self-consumption such as roots, bean, ground nuts and millet. On the other hand, men cultivate and manage more crops for market such as bananas, maize, coffee and tea;
- Women farmers have little input in marketing; it is the husband who typically makes the marketing decisions and collects the profits. In many cases money from crop sale is managed and controlled by mainly the husbands as well as decisions on how such monies is to be used in the family, nor is the decision on how it is spent. Such control is at times enforced through violence; and
- In most areas, one tends to find women working more in fragile lands such as wetland edges, roadsides, hill slopes prone to landslides, degraded and eroded soils. This is occasioned by the factor of land ownership.

To what extent does climate change generally impact on gender with respect to agriculture in Uganda?

- Women in Uganda are less likely to have knowledge and experience with climate-related hazards to agricultural productivity;
- Women being major providers of at household feel more the brunt of climate change than men because in case of storms, they lose crop harvests and food supply at household is a challenge,

flooded gardens, delayed rains meaning, late cropping and late harvests hence households have a problem of famine;

- Men can be more concerned about livestock production challenges because of scarcity of grass, water and disease outbreaks. On the other hand, women get bothered with outbreaks of pests and diseases on crops;
- The inadequate sensitization, information, knowledge and skills on CSA technologies and practices is typical amongst the women and men alike in rural settings. The low receptivity to CSA information could also be linked to weak financial capacity among many farmers coupled with a history of dependence on external assistance (donors and government) in form of handouts especially amongst the vulnerable communities such as refugees etc.;
- Other limitations include inadequate access to land and limited decision-making power to adopt any CSA practices on household land, both of which apply to both men and women also keeps gender vulnerable to vagaries of climate change; and
- Other challenges posed by climate change on gender include recurrent droughts, the customary land tenure system (i.e. limited private ownership and therefore low incentive to invest in expensive technologies and practices); high fragmentation of land for subsistence farming; and deeply entrenched traditional farming practices such as open grazing and nomadic pastoralism all impact on gender dimension in agriculture and adoption of CSA practices.


How does climate change impact on agriculture with respect to gender?

- Women's shortage of cash income makes them less able to use the improved agricultural technologies that some men are able to use including tools and equipment; improved seeds; and chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. Thus, social norms and values limit the technological choices available to women, contributing to lower agricultural productivity. This extends to such climate-smart agricultural practices as conservation agriculture that sustains soil conservation, crop variety selection, drought-resistant and high yielding crops; manuring; rainwater harvesting; and agroforestry, which helps sustain soil structure, composition and biodiversity;
- Equally clearly, addressing these constraints could increase the productivity of women's plots of land. Such an increase in turn would help alleviate broader societal concerns about Ugandan standards of living and children's health. The constraints on women are time, poverty, lack of cash income, shortage of independently controlled assets and lack of access to climate-smart agricultural practices and services.

How can gender be effectively mainstreamed to UCSATP?

- In a number of aspects, a number of farmers (both women and men) sometimes knowing or unknowingly already practice aspects of climate-smart agriculture in terms of intercropping maize and beans, planting more drought-tolerant crops, using faster-maturing seeds, manuring and tree planting. However, lack of technical knowledge limits the effectiveness of these steps. For example, integrated agroforestry practices would reduce the time required for women to collect firewood, improve water sources and increase soil fertility;
- A gender-responsive approach to CSA would involve, among others, will involve a gender analysis of the needs and priorities of male and female farmers, an identification of barriers to CSA adoption, followed by the development of strategies to address the barriers identified and the monitoring of short, medium and long-term benefits during CSA application;
- Women may benefit from agricultural production at different stages of the value chain than men. A comprehensive gender-responsive value chain analysis is needed to determine where women most benefit. Such analysis can help design projects that generate benefits for both men and women by enhancing their access to markets;
- The investment in climate-smart technologies such as improved seeds requires timely and reliable access to good quality seed in the vicinity of farmers. Farmers are also encouraged to invest in climate-smart technologies and practices when they have an assurance of markets with good prices for their produce that will enable them to make returns on their investments; and

- Interventions that seek to actively challenge gender and power inequalities that constrain women's access to, ownership of, or control of productive assets such as land, labour and technology should be undertaken.

	Meeting with the CSOs working with the Batwa.		
	DATE	20th April 2022	
	MEETING	START	10:00 am
		END	10:45 am
MINUTES BY	Mr. Nelson Omagor		

Venue of meeting	A virtual Meeting by Mr. Nelson Omagor, Environmental and Social Safeguards Consultant and Ms. Penninah Zaninka Coordinator CSOs working with Batwa (0772660810).
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Subject of the Meeting	Stakeholder consultations on the planned Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project with specific reference to involvement of the Batwa who are Vulnerable and Marginalized Group.
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The Meeting focused on the following aspects:

Agenda:

Self-Introductions

Introduction of the project; its objectives, activities and beneficiaries as well as focus on Batwa involvement

Submission by Thomas addressing agricultural challenges amongst the Ik with climate challenges and how they expect the project to be implemented with respect to Batwa and vulnerable people.

Closure of the Meeting.

Self-Introductions

Self-introductions by the meeting and the subject of the Meeting was shared. The Consultant introduced the Project and outlined its objectives, planned activities as well as coverage of the Batwa people amongst the vulnerable people. The project is called Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project and MAAIF and that, services of JBN Consults and Planners Ltd had been retained for these services in keeping the World Bank requirements during project preparations. He added the project is answer to dwindling agricultural production occasioned largely by erratic climatic changes. As part of the project preparation process, its required that some of the key environmental and social safeguards documents need to be prepared and these include; ESMF, SEF and VMGF which is why the meeting now to provide input to these processes.

Overview on the proposed project

- ❖ In Uganda Agriculture is mainly dependent on rain therefore the climate shocks will continue to have significant direct and indirect impacts on agricultural productivity and incomes so there is need to build resilience to climatic shocks;
- ❖ The consultant informed Ms. Penninah how the project will support investments in technologies and market driven productivity in climate smart value chains which will contribute to reversing of climate change hence increase in agriculture productivity and household incomes; and
- ❖ Some of the project components are promoting adoption of climate smart agriculture practices and value chains, strengthening climate smart agricultural research and seeds systems, strengthening agro-climatic monitoring and information systems and project coordination management, monitoring and evaluation and learning.

Submission by Ms. Penniah on addressing agriculture production challenges amongst the Batwa Communities with a focus on climate change risks and how they would expect the project to be implemented with respect to Ik and vulnerable people.

In the discussion Ms. Penninah submitted that:

- ❖ Land size and fertility are major constraints towards agricultural yields and contributors to food insecurity amongst the Batwa communities. It is also compounded by poorer fertility of Batwa cultivation plots compared with how the cultivation plots of other communities in neighbouring districts in Kanungu are. This is all part of well-known historical injustices where the Batwa were pushed out of their productive lands for the sake of conservation;
- ❖ Due to land scarcity, Batwa households do practice over-cultivation, that depreciates their land fertility thereby depriving of them of good yields and food insecurity.
- ❖ Sometimes the Batwa communities do have good food harvests and good food access in terms of both quantity and quality and these happens during times of good rains and supply of good seed supply and absence of extreme weather events (e.g. drought, hailstorms), pests and crop raiding by wildlife from nearby national parks;
- ❖ Extreme weather events in both the dry and rainy seasons are some of the most frequent hazards in Batwa areas. During the dry season, many food crops dry up and the people have poor harvest and limited food items to eat. Some years, people plant millet it can rain heavily and all the seeds get washed by the storms;
- ❖ Droughts are perceived to be particularly difficult as they impact both food and water security: “We are affected by drought [a month or longer], like once a year. Dry seasons don’t only affect the crops but also our water sources dry up, yet most of the work and activities we do at home all rely on using water” (.....reported by Penninah Zannika pers.com.);
- ❖ Awareness of potential coping strategies is key and the Batwa should be given tailor-made programs addressing; crop rotation, inter-cropping, crop diversification, tree planting, cash crops growing such as tea and coffee, animal husbandry, support towards bee-keeping, provision of agricultural inputs to support improved yields, post-harvest technologies and long-term planning can be potential strategies to address improved crop production in the communities of the Batwa;
- ❖ However, lack of land to a very big extent restrict implementation of food production coping mechanisms. For example, different harvesting cycles of vegetables and legumes can provide food year-round if timed appropriately, but small plots cannot support such a diversity of crops. Sometimes communities are not able to produce adequate crop yields, they can grow food crops and after harvesting, they can survive on them for about a month and they get finished. They can never grow crops that can last for over a year whereas non-Indigenous neighboring (Bakiga) population are able to plant both staple and cash crops (coffee, tea), which lead to food security and improved cash wealth. The Batwa equally want to grow such crops and be wealthy but the question of land is a problem;
- ❖ By and large, amongst the Batwa members, there is a feeling that, they are systematically excluded from the political processes in Uganda due to systemic and structural barriers. For instance, many of them don’t have national identification cards and this makes it hard for them to access Government programs because those without national Identity cards are not recognized as Ugandan citizens. A number of them lack access to quality education in private schools because of school fees;
- ❖ To address the challenges of climate change, Uganda implemented an adaptation agenda through a number of policy measures including the [National Adaptation Plan](#) and periodic [National Development Plans](#). However, from the discussions, it emerged that, the Batwa we’re not included meaningfully in the decision-making processes of these plans. This means that the interventions that target them are poorly designed and implemented;
- ❖ Amongst the communities of the Batwa, rainwater harvesting investments in the form of household roof tanks or community tanks only work for Batwa who live in permanent houses who are just a handful as such, that intervention in terms of climate mitigation is not realistic

to the Batwa but there are resources by Government and development partners meant to relieve water scarcity through such but they get excluded. Worse, they are by large, mostly landless who live in temporary houses and won't benefit at all;


- ❖ In one area in where there they are settled, they on relatively barren, steep slopes. Here they were expected to live and do farming and how can they participate in meaningful and rewarding agriculture? In another cases, they are provided interventions in terms of high yielding crop seeds to their households but a number of them do not even have any farmland.

What can work and how UCSATP can be implemented should be:

- ❖ It is vital that, the Project has a tailor-made approach which is responsive to the needs and set up of the Batwa. Some sections of the Batwa communities do not have national identity cards and if have the identity cards is a compliance requirement to access project financing or otherwise, such groups will miss out;
- ❖ To Penninah, it would also be worthwhile to draw on best practices and lessons from similar cases where similar types of interventions have worked amongst marginalized and vulnerable communities such as Batwa rather than to simply fit these groups into a program, that may not work well. A case of the world's first national indigenous climate platform in Peru which is reported to have some success stories and such stories could as well inform UCSATP program. Through such stories, impetus is to prioritize these groups and to even strengthen the role of VMG in mitigating and adapting to climate change could get well informed;
- ❖ Based on her experience, climate adaptation responses must pay more and specific attention to the issues of recognition, participation and deliberate processes geared towards creating and building sustainability in the marginalized and vulnerable communities rather than some approaches focusing on distribution of food aid and handouts;
- ❖ Deliberate drive to grow alternate cash crops such as coffee, tea and agro-forestry is critical for the sustainability of these communities and the project needs to factor such into their plan for Batwa;
- ❖ Ms. Penninah recommends that, UCSATP in its PMU should amongst its staffing should include a VMG Specialist who amongst others, is to ensure information regarding the project is accordingly packaged and delivered to and from VMGs for their effective and meaningful involvement in UCSATP; and
- ❖ Finally, within available lands amongst the Batwa, UCSATP and MAAIF should focus on maximizing production more efforts are needed to end discrimination and domination against Indigenous communities and promote inclusive structures and processes through legal and policy reforms.

Reaction from JBN consults

The Consultant informed Ms. Penninah that the project was still at its preparation stage and these ideas will be passed on to the Ministry for consideration.

		Meeting with the Sub-county Chief Ik/District Commercial Officer Kotido district		
		DATE		19th April 2022
		MEETING	START	09:50 am
			END	10:20 am
MINUTES BY		Mr. Nelson Omagor		
Venue of meeting	A virtual Meeting by Mr. Nelson Omagor, Environmental and Social Safeguards Consultant and Mr. Thomas Lemu Sub-county Chief Kabong/Ik Community Liaison Officer (0772199992).			
Subject of the Meeting	Stakeholder consultations on the planned Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project with specific reference to involvement of the Ik who are Vulnerable and Marginalized Group.			
<p>The Meeting focused on the following aspects:</p> <p>Introduction of the project; its objectives, activities and beneficiaries as well as focus on Ik involvement</p> <p>Submission by Thomas addressing agricultural challenges amongst the Ik with climate challenges and how they expect the project to be implemented with respect to Ik and vulnerable people.</p> <p>Closure of the Meeting.</p>				
<p>Self-Introductions</p> <p>Self-introductions by the meeting and the subject of the Meeting was shared. The Consultant introduced the Project and outlined its objectives, planned activities as well as coverage of the Ik people amongst the vulnerable people. The project is called Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project and MAAIF and that, services of JBN Consults and Planners Ltd had been retained for these services in keeping the World Bank requirements during project preparations. He added the project is answer to dwindling agricultural production occasioned largely by erratic climatic changes. As part of the project preparation process, its required that some of the key environmental and social safeguards documents need to be prepared and these include; ESMF, SEF and VMP which is why the meeting now to provide input to these processes.</p>				
<p>Overview on the proposed project</p> <p>In Uganda Agriculture is mainly dependent on rain therefore the climate shocks will continue to have significant direct and indirect impacts on agricultural productivity and incomes so there is need to build resilience to climatic shocks;</p> <p>The consultant informed the key person how the project will support investments in technologies and market driven productivity in climate smart value chains which will contribute to reversing of climate change hence increase in agriculture productivity and household incomes; and</p> <p>Some of the project components are promoting adoption of climate smart agriculture practices and value chains, strengthening climate smart agricultural research and seeds systems, strengthening agro-climatic monitoring and information systems and project coordination management, monitoring and evaluation and learning.</p>				
<p>Submission by Thomas Lemu addressing agricultural challenges amongst the Ik with climate challenges and how they expect the project to be implemented with respect to Ik and vulnerable people.</p>				

In the discussion Thomas submitted that:

- ❖ The production went up because UPDF Disarmament was a reality in that, there was peace and people were really settled;
- ❖ Over the last 10 years people of Kabong and Ik people have been producing millet, sorghum and maize in good quantities because their soils are good and the weather has been favourable;
- ❖ The farming calendar amongst the Ik starts in February with land preparation and ploughing but cattle rustlers have virtually taken all oxen in the communities so opening land is a nightmare;
- ❖ One the problem the Ik have is access to accurate weather information and such information ought to be readily available in their local dialects so that they are able to synchronize their cropping calendars. Unfortunately, the Weather Station constructed by Government in Kabong has not been equipped and non-functional. The UCSATP should avail programs of early warning to the communities so as to address cropping timings;
- ❖ The project should be careful in its design, operations and management of its revolving funds. For instance, when Government came with its Emyoga funds for small-scale interventions, the beneficiary community took it as a political hand-out and an appreciation after the elections. It is critical, that there is adequate mobilization and sensitization and a high level of readiness otherwise the intervention can come to nothing;
- ❖ Literature has it that, Karamoja has benefitted from a number of assistance programs but there isn't much to show on the ground except lately NUSAF and DRDIP projects in OPM. Lately, the Ik communities urge that, technical staff managing project interventions in their areas should be from Ik people unless it really emerges that, there are no such specialties amongst then a person originating from Kabong could be considered this is because they know the special needs of their people and their cultural implications of dealing with outside world;
- ❖ Lately, cattle rustling has taken another dimension and become commercialized involving local leaders, it has even become cross-border in nature and the net effect is, the factor of agricultural production has been taken i.e. oxen so famine will be worse in a few years to come;
- ❖ Cattle are raided and taken in waiting trucks guarded by soldiers and this has had its impact on farming; and
- ❖ The other problem is, there thieves all-over the villages stealing food in granaries, uprooting crops in gardens. What is worse, even the Village Saving and Loan Associations (VLSA) thought are being frustrated by some members themselves in some areas amongst the IK and across the district. Some members go and alert thieves about what a group has saved and they come for the box. So, managing a revolving fund must be well thought of before starting or having it as part of the project.

The following are some of the suggestions regarding the UCSATP as per the Ik Community Mobilizer:

- ❖ Because of rampant cattle raids, the Ik are more comfortable with enterprises to do with bee keeping and there is a claim that, the Ik people or communities have best honey in the world"
- ❖ The cattle raids have left the communities exposed to worse famine than ever and it would be good, the project works hand in hand with OPM to also deliver food assistance to the beneficiary communities in the project otherwise, they can end up selling project in-puts for quick funds for their survival;
- ❖ The community structures to a very large extent should be used amongst the Ik to operationalize the project. For instance, the elderly men (Ikasukoun), youth (Ikarcuna) and women (A'ngoria) have different and clear roles in the communities and should be targeted differently for different development aspect. The Elders are usual in mobilization of youth because their special place and respect in society, the youth fear to oppose anything the elders advance;
- ❖ Let UCSATP provide Ik with simple mechanized agricultural equipment because lately cattle rustling has swept virtually all cows amongst the Ik people and they begin to feel safe without cattle for fear of rustlers;
- ❖ Interest groups and vulnerable categories ought to have their resources and involvement be ring-fenced others often they are left out during implementation. What is key, let there be clear provisions for interventions meant for vulnerable groups in view of their uniqueness. In NUSAF

2 and 3 there was a special program and approach meant for Karamoja which should be the case under UCSATP otherwise these groups tend to miss out from programs where they are included in the overall project interventions; and

- ❖ The last intervention of restocking should occur after successfully having in place sound disarmament program by UPDF otherwise the cows will simply be stolen by the raiders and this can upset all projects meant for VGMs and Karamoja at large.

Reaction from JBN consults

The Consultant informed Mr. Thomas that the project was still at its preparation stage and these ideas will be passed on to the Ministry for consideration. The Consultant appreciated the CDO for the information shared and the time spared towards the success of the project

10.2 ANNEX 2: GRIEVANCE LOG AND RESOLUTION FORM

Name (Filer of Complaint):
ID Number (Complainant's ID number):
Contact Information (house number/ mobile phone):.....
Nature of Grievance or Complaint:
Date Individuals Contacted and Summary of Discussion:
Signature..... Date:
Signed (Filer of Complaint):
Name of Person Filing Complaint (if different from Filer):
Position or Relationship to Filer:
Review/Resolution
Date of Conciliation Session:
Was Filer Present? Yes/No
Was field verification of complaint conducted? Yes/No
Findings of field investigation:.....
Summary of Conciliation Session
Discussion.....
Issues.....
Was agreement reached on the issues? Yes/No
If agreement was reached, detail the agreement below/if agreement was not reached, specify the points of disagreement below:
Signed (Conciliator): Signed (Filer).....
Signed:
(Independent Observer)
Date: