

AIWE – Climate Change Adaptation & Environmental Resilience Program (CCAERP)

3-Year Strategic Plan (2026–2028)

1. Program Vision

A climate-resilient Uganda where communities, particularly vulnerable populations, possess the knowledge, resources, and capacity to adapt to climate change while sustainably managing natural resources for current and future generations.

2. Program Goal

To strengthen community, institutional, and ecosystem resilience to climate change through sustainable adaptation interventions, environmental conservation, climate-smart livelihoods, and inclusive climate action over three years.

3. Strategic Objectives (2026–2028)

Objective 1: Strengthen community capacity to understand, prepare for, and respond to climate change impacts.

Objective 2: Promote climate-smart agriculture and sustainable livelihood practices to enhance food security and household resilience.

Objective 3: Restore and conserve ecosystems through community-led environmental management initiatives.

Objective 4: Improve disaster risk reduction systems and preparedness for climate-related emergencies.

Objective 5: Foster climate leadership, innovation, and partnerships to sustain long-term environmental resilience.

4. Key Strategic Pillars & Activities

YEAR 1: FOUNDATION, ASSESSMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING (2026)

Goal:

Establish the structures, partnerships, and community systems necessary for effective program implementation.

A. Institutional Strengthening and Partnership Development

- Recruit climate change and environmental sustainability personnel.
- Develop climate adaptation training manuals and community education materials.

- Establish partnerships with district local governments, environmental agencies, academic institutions, and civil society organizations.
- Create a Climate Change Advisory Committee to guide program implementation.

B. Baseline Assessments and Climate Vulnerability Mapping

- Conduct climate vulnerability and risk assessments in target communities.
- Map climate hazards, environmental degradation hotspots, and vulnerable populations.
- Assess existing community adaptation practices and resource gaps.
- Establish baseline indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

C. Community Climate Awareness and Education

- Conduct climate literacy campaigns in schools and communities.
- Train community leaders and local government officials on climate adaptation.
- Establish Climate Action Clubs in schools.
- Develop educational materials on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

D. Pilot Climate-Smart Agriculture Demonstrations

- Establish demonstration farms showcasing climate-smart practices.
- Train lead farmers on sustainable agricultural technologies.
- Introduce drought-tolerant crop varieties and water-efficient farming methods.
- Promote soil conservation and integrated farming systems.

E. Ecosystem Restoration Planning

- Identify degraded ecosystems requiring restoration.
- Develop community-based restoration action plans.
- Establish community tree nurseries.
- Mobilize local environmental stewardship groups.

Key Outputs (Year 1)

- 20 communities enrolled in the program.
- 100 local leaders and frontline workers trained.
- Baseline climate vulnerability assessment completed.
- 30 Climate Action Clubs established.
- 10 climate-smart agriculture demonstration sites established.

- 5 community tree nurseries operational.
- Strategic partnerships formalized.

YEAR 2: IMPLEMENTATION, EXPANSION & COMMUNITY ACTION (2027)

Goal:

Scale climate adaptation interventions and strengthen community resilience through direct implementation.

A. Climate-Smart Agriculture and Livelihood Enhancement

- Train 1,000 farmers in climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Expand demonstration farms across target districts.
- Support adoption of drought-resistant crops and improved livestock practices.
- Promote income diversification through sustainable enterprises.
- Facilitate access to climate information services.

B. Ecosystem Restoration and Natural Resource Management

- Implement large-scale tree planting initiatives.
- Restore degraded wetlands and watershed areas.
- Promote agroforestry practices among farming households.
- Strengthen community natural resource management committees.
- Support biodiversity conservation activities.

C. Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness

- Develop community disaster preparedness plans.
- Train community emergency response teams.
- Establish community-based early warning systems.
- Conduct simulation exercises for flood and drought response.
- Integrate disaster preparedness into school programs.

D. Youth Engagement and Climate Leadership

- Train youth climate ambassadors.
- Support youth-led environmental innovation projects.
- Organize climate action campaigns and environmental events.

- Promote green entrepreneurship initiatives among young people.

E. Renewable Energy and Green Technologies

- Promote adoption of clean cooking technologies.
- Support installation of solar energy systems in schools and community centers.
- Introduce rainwater harvesting technologies.
- Demonstrate energy-efficient household practices.

F. Midline Monitoring and Evaluation

- Conduct midline assessments to evaluate program effectiveness.
- Document lessons learned and best practices.
- Refine implementation strategies based on findings.

Key Outputs (Year 2)

- 1,000 farmers trained in climate-smart agriculture.
- 500,000 trees planted and maintained.
- 25 communities implementing disaster preparedness plans.
- 100 youth climate ambassadors trained.
- 50 schools actively participating in Climate Action Clubs.
- 500 households adopting renewable energy technologies.
- Midline evaluation completed.

YEAR 3: SCALE-UP, POLICY INTEGRATION & SUSTAINABILITY (2028)

Goal:

Institutionalize climate resilience systems and expand successful models for long-term sustainability.

A. Expansion to Additional Communities

- Extend interventions to new districts and communities.
- Scale climate-smart agriculture practices to additional farmer groups.
- Expand ecosystem restoration activities.

B. Policy Advocacy and Systems Integration

- Collaborate with local governments to integrate climate adaptation into district development plans.

- Develop policy briefs based on program evidence.
- Engage national stakeholders in climate resilience dialogues.
- Support schools to integrate environmental education into extracurricular programs.

C. Community Ownership and Leadership

- Transition climate initiatives to community structures.
- Strengthen local environmental committees to oversee sustainability efforts.
- Train local government staff and community facilitators to continue program activities.
- Develop community-led climate action plans.

D. Research, Learning and Knowledge Management

- Conduct end-line evaluations and impact assessments.
- Document successful adaptation models and lessons learned.
- Publish research findings and case studies.
- Host national and regional knowledge-sharing forums.

E. Long-Term Resource Mobilization

- Develop multi-year partnerships with development agencies.
- Engage private sector partners in climate resilience investments.
- Support establishment of community green enterprises.
- Explore carbon financing and environmental funding opportunities.

Key Outputs (Year 3)

- Program expanded to 40 communities.
- 2 million trees planted cumulatively.
- Climate adaptation integrated into district development plans.
- Community climate action committees operational.
- Research publications and policy briefs disseminated.
- Sustainability and transition roadmap completed.
- Long-term partnerships established.

5. Program Indicators (Selected)

Climate Adaptation and Resilience

- Number of households adopting climate-smart practices.
- Percentage increase in community resilience scores.
- Number of communities implementing adaptation plans.

Ecosystem Restoration

- Number of trees planted and surviving after 12 months.
- Hectares of degraded land restored.
- Number of wetlands and watersheds rehabilitated.

Capacity Building

- Number of individuals trained on climate adaptation.
- Number of active Climate Action Clubs established.
- Number of local institutions engaged.

Disaster Preparedness

- Number of communities with functional preparedness plans.
- Percentage of communities accessing early warning information.
- Number of emergency response teams trained.

Sustainable Livelihoods

- Percentage increase in agricultural productivity.
- Percentage reduction in climate-related livelihood losses.
- Number of households adopting diversified income sources.

Renewable Energy Adoption

- Number of households using clean energy technologies.
- Number of institutions utilizing renewable energy systems.
- Reduction in dependence on unsustainable energy sources.

6. Sustainability Strategy

AIWE will ensure long-term sustainability through:

- Building the capacity of community structures and local governments.
- Establishing Climate Action Committees to lead local initiatives.
- Integrating climate resilience interventions into district development frameworks.

- Strengthening partnerships with government ministries and environmental agencies.
- Promoting youth-led climate action and peer education models.
- Supporting community-based green enterprises and livelihood opportunities.
- Leveraging innovative financing mechanisms including environmental grants and carbon financing.
- Encouraging community ownership through participatory planning and implementation.

By the end of Year 3, participating communities will possess strengthened adaptive capacity, improved environmental stewardship practices, and sustainable systems capable of responding effectively to climate-related challenges.

7. Budget Framework (High-Level)

(Detailed budget available upon request)

- Personnel and Technical Expertise
- Training and Capacity Building
- Climate Vulnerability Assessments and Research
- Climate-Smart Agriculture Demonstration Activities
- Tree Planting and Ecosystem Restoration
- Renewable Energy and Green Technology Initiatives
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning Systems
- Community Mobilization and Awareness Campaigns
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Documentation
- Program Management and Operational Costs
- Partnership Development and Policy Engagement Activities

Estimated 3-Year Budget Range:

USD 500,000 – USD 1,000,000 depending on geographical coverage and scale of implementation.