

Redress



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Grievances and Complaints

Eligibility Determination

**GCF Project FP034: Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and
Associated Catchments in Uganda**

IRM Case C-0011-Uganda

13 December 2024

Eligibility Determination

The Terms of Reference (TOR)¹ and the Procedures and Guidelines (PGs)² of the Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) sets out how the IRM deals with grievances or complaints from a person, group of persons, or community who have been, or may be affected by the adverse impacts of a GCF funded project or programme. Once a grievance or complaint is received and registered by the IRM, the PGs require the IRM to determine if the grievance or complaint meets the eligibility criteria set out in paragraphs 20 – 21 and 23-24 of the PGs of the IRM. It is to be noted that this determination is procedural, and that it does not represent a judgement on the merits or the substance of the case.

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

For reasons substantiated in greater detail in this document, the IRM determines that this grievance/complaint is **eligible** under the IRM's TOR and PGs.

BACKGROUND

On 15 November 2024, the IRM received and acknowledged receipt of a complaint concerning a fatal drowning incident in south-western Uganda. The complainants are family members of the deceased. The complainants have not requested confidentiality but as a result of the IRM's risk assessments, and in accordance with the PGs and TOR, the IRM is withholding the identity of complainants in external communications. As the complaint was communicated orally, the IRM is summarizing the contents of the complaint in this eligibility determination in lieu of a written complaint document.

The complaint relates to a drowning incident that occurred on 29 September 2024 in Rukiga District in Uganda. The incident involves a 17-year-old boy who was reportedly engaged in informal labour (clearing of timber) around wetland areas in Bukinda Sub-County, Rukiga District. The incident occurred at a site that was described as a "pond" or "dam" and was later determined to be a water retention facility that was reportedly under construction, and part of livelihood-support activities being implemented under the GCF-funded project FP034, "Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda" (FP034). Eyewitness accounts suggest a lack of warning signs and fencing in and around the water retention site for several weeks prior to and during the time of the incident.

GCF Project FP034 is intended to assist Uganda in (i) restoring critical wetlands to improve ecosystem services; (ii) enhancing skills and diversifying livelihoods of people; and (iii) reducing climate risks for communities in sensitive wetland areas and enhancing preparedness.³ The project was approved during the 15th meeting of the GCF Board on 15 December 2016. The Accredited Entity (AE) for this Project is the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). At the date of this eligibility determination, the Project is 'Under Implementation' and is due to be completed on 31 December 2026.

During eligibility determination, the IRM gathered and examined information from complainants and community members. Information that was examined included eyewitness accounts of individuals present in the immediate aftermath of the incident. The IRM was also

¹ Available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/document/irm-tor>

² Available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/document/2019-procedures-and-guidelines-irm>

³ For more information on the project, please visit: [FP034: Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda | Green Climate Fund](#)

able to verify through audio-visual data, the location of the water retention facility and its relevance to GCF project sites.

The IRM further notes that family members have raised several concerns related to ongoing harms being experienced as a result of the loss of life. The deceased was the primary caregiver to an elderly family member and provided support to the household through his earnings. The deceased was responsible for fetching water for household and personal use, and since his passing, the elderly family member has faced difficulties in obtaining the same. The family further requested assistance in meeting the needs of the elderly family member as it relates to the provision of water.

Based on the information gathered, the IRM *prima facie* concludes that the eligibility criteria, as set out in more detail below, have been met.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The IRM examined the eligibility of the complaint/grievance against the eligibility criteria set out in paragraphs 20 – 21 and 23-24 of the PGs of the IRM. The primary eligibility criteria and the IRM’s findings in relation to these criteria are set out in the table below.

Criterion	Does the grievance or complaint meet the criterion?	Reason(s)
Was the grievance or complaint filed by a person, group of persons, community (or any duly authorised representative of the aforementioned groups) who have been or may be affected by the adverse impacts of a GCF funded project or programme?	Yes	The complainants are a group of persons who have reported experiencing adverse impacts as a result of a GCF funded project or programme.
Was the grievance or complaint submitted to the IRM before whichever is the later of the following two dates: (a) Two years from the date the complainant becomes aware of the adverse impacts referred to in paragraph 20 of the PGs; or (b) two years from the closure of the GCF	Yes	The complaint was submitted on 15 November 2024. At the time of submission, the project was under implementation. The complaint was accordingly submitted to the IRM before the later of the dates mentioned in the IRM’s PGs.

funded project or programme.		
Does the grievance or complaint fall into any one or more of the exclusions listed in paragraph 24 of the PGs?	No	None of the exclusionary criteria appear to be triggered by this complaint.

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

For the reasons stated above, the IRM determines that this grievance or complaint is **eligible** under the IRM's TOR and PGs. The IRM will now engage with the complainant(s) to understand the issues in the complaint and to provide further information on the next steps available to process the complaint. For further information on the process that the IRM will follow, please refer to paragraph 36 of the PGs.

[Signed]

Sonja Derkum

Head of Unit
Independent Redress Mechanism
Green Climate Fund

Prepared by:
Preksha Krishna Kumar
Registrar and Case Officer
Independent Redress Mechanism
Green Climate Fund