

Redress



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Independent Redress Mechanism

Grievances and Complaints

Eligibility Determination

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

IRM Case C-0012-Uganda

10 February 2025

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 11 January 2025, the IRM registered a complaint concerning a fatal drowning incident in south-western Uganda with potential relevance to GCF-funded project FP034, "Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda" (FP034). The complainants requested and were granted confidentiality in accordance with the PGs and TOR. 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.

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.

The complaint relates to a drowning incident of an 8-year-old girl that occurred on March 2023 in South-Western Uganda. The incident took place at a water retention facility or 'pond' that was under construction, and located adjacent to wetlands. According to eyewitnesses, the young girl was looking after goats grazing in the area and is said to have entered the pond to retrieve a goat that had strayed into it. Per interviews conducted by the IRM team, at the time of the incident, there were no fences in place to prevent access to the site.

The IRM team visited the site of the incident and spoke with affected community members to ascertain relevance and potential linkages to GCF project sites. Through a review of project documentation and information that included eyewitness accounts the IRM was able to confirm that several GCF project activities and stakeholder engagements, in and around the sub-county and wetland system, had been under implementation around the time of the incident.

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](#)

The IRM further assessed that the pond or water retention facility was initially intended to be a part of livelihood-support activities being implemented under GCF Project FP034. At present, the status of the site is now deemed "abandoned", constituting one of several "abandoned" sites that were previously part of GCF Project FP034.

Notwithstanding the present status of the site, the IRM's assessment suggests strong linkages to GCF project activities. The IRM will endeavor to gather further information to assess the timelines and reasons for the change in status of the site. 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 11 January 2025. 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]

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