

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-0013-Uganda

10 April 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 March 2025, the IRM acknowledged receipt of a complaint filed by wetland-dependent communities residing in Rukungiri district in Uganda. The complainants requested and have been granted confidentiality, in accordance with IRM TOR and PGs. The complainants are represented by a civil society organization, the Health and Equity Policy Initiative.

The complaint relates to GCF-funded project FP034, "Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda." The project's activities are targeted to the eastern and south-western regions of Uganda. The project 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

FP034 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 Programme (UNDP). At the date of this eligibility determination, the Project is 'Under Implementation' and is due to be completed on 31 December 2026.

The complainant(s) have brought to the IRM several concerns related to the implementation of this project in Nyambabi wetland system in Rukungiri district in November 2023. The complainant(s) have alleged the following:

- 1) Violation of property rights of wetland-dependent communities;
- 2) Destruction/demolition of homes;
- 3) Demarcation of lands without compensation;
- 4) Destruction of crops, trees and plantations (bananas, coffee, maize, beans, millet, cassava, groundnuts and rice);
- 5) Forced displacement of wetland-dependent communities with the presence of security forces (police and/or army);

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](#)

- 6) Increased impoverishment of communities due to lack of shelter/food;
- 7) Non-provision of alternative livelihood options;

During the phase of eligibility determination, the IRM obtained further information from complainant(s). Information gathered included first-hand accounts of forced evictions and a desk review of relevant project documentation pertaining to implementation of activities in the relevant district in the relevant timeframe, inclusive of the Funding Proposal and subsequent Annual Performance Reports. 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 or community residing in Rukungiri district where FP034 is being implemented. The complainants have authorized a civil society organization to act as their authorized representative. The complainants <i>prima facie</i> have been affected by adverse impacts linked to a GCF funded project or programme.
<p>Was the grievance or complaint submitted to the IRM before whichever is the later of the following two dates:</p> <p>(a) Two years from the date the complainant becomes aware of the adverse impacts referred to in paragraph 20 of the PGs; or</p> <p>(b) two years from the closure of the GCF funded project or programme.</p>	Yes	The complaint was registered on 11 March 2025. At the time of registration, 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.

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.
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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 further 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

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