NURI
Danida

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK
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A Rapid Assessment of NURI Interventions against the Nature-based Solutions Standard

Final Report

September 2022

NURI Coordination Function

with input from Reint J Bakema (contract DC F2 2022-7576)

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* Front page photograph: establishing a bio-swale in a perma-garden in Rhino Camp settlement using an A-frame

This document was prepared by the Coordination Function of NURI with support from Reint Bakema under a contract with the Embassy of Denmark in Uganda. The content is the sole responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Denmark or Danida.

ABBREVIATIONS

CC	Climate Change
CE	Climate Envelope
CF	Coordination Function (of NURI)
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
DKK	Danish Kroner
DRA	Disaster Risk Assessment
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EoD	Embassy of Denmark
GHG	Greenhouse Gasses
HH	Household
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NURI	Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-Development Assistance Committee
OND	October-November-December rainy season
RAU	Resilience Agriculture Units
RI	Rural Infrastructure
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
WRM	Water Resources Management

INTRODUCTION

This report is made by the Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI) Coordination Function, with input from an independent consultant under contract DC F2 2022-7576 with the Embassy of Denmark (EoD) in Uganda. The report analyses to what extent the interventions of NURI over the last 4 years comply with the Nature-base Solutions Standard, as formulated by the World Conservation Union (IUCN); and, secondly, if and how in future the compliance of NURI interventions with the NbS standard could be enhanced.

The assessment comes in the wake of the ongoing preparation for a one-year extension of NURI up to December 2023. Given that the funds for the NURI extension were derived largely from the Danish Climate Envelope (CE), the extension will have to have a strong 'green' and climate adaptation signature. In particular the extension will serve four purposes:

- Assessing and documenting climate adaptation measures in existing activities;
- Completing and consolidating ongoing activities to withstand future climatic changes and ensure prolonged longevity of projects;
- Piloting new climate-smart interventions to green NURI and a likely follow-on programme;
- Piloting new activities and mechanisms related to operational sustainability, to ensure perpetual and scalable impact.

In line with these four objectives, the NURI-team and the EoD wish to understand to what extent NbS could be useful as a guiding principle in the design of the NURI extension and its planned follow-up programme. To answer that question, and as an input in the NURI extension design process, the NURI team carried out a self-assessment of ongoing NURI interventions using the self-assessment tool for NbS of IUCN. The outcome was documented and analysed by the CF, and further put into context by the consultant, with a view of drawing independent conclusions and recommendations from it.

The report is an input in the work of the DANIDA appraisal mission for the NURI extension, scheduled for September 2022. Based on the recommendations of the appraisal mission, NURI will draw up, in consultation with its implementing partners and participating communities, an implementation plan for the extension, with a view to enhance and consolidate climate change adaptation in existing projects, design new 'green' projects, and complete all on-going activities.

This report is produced as a combined effort and under shared responsibility by the NURI CF and the consultant. It was submitted to the EoD on 23 September 2022.

What are Nature-based Solutions?

Concept and Definition

The term Nature-based Solutions (NbS) is used as an umbrella concept to cover a range of ecosystem related approaches to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems. It has been developed during the last few decades from the realisation that thriving natural ecosystems are essential for human existence and good quality of life; and that the sustainable management of our natural capital, that is the world's stocks of natural assets, which include geology, soil, air, water and all living things, are essential in driving development and achieving the SDGs.

One of the most widely used definitions of Nature-based Solutions comes from IUCN:

Nature-based Solutions are defined as actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits (IUCN, 2016).

Although the fundamentals of NbS are derived from established practices such as forest landscape restoration, integrated water resource management, ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation, and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, NbS go beyond nature conservation and biodiversity protection. Instead, it intends to simultaneously protect, manage and restore ecosystems while at the same time delivering tangible benefits for people[1]. Typical examples are watershed management and shoreline protection, whereby natural ecosystems are enhanced to support and protect man-made infrastructure or build-up areas. As such, NbS cover the full spectrum of ecosystem conditions - from natural to managed, modified, novel or artificial systems - as well as in scale, purpose, scope and actors[2].

In agricultural production systems, NbS is applicable to plot and farm level, for example by promoting soil conservation and the inclusion of trees / agroforestry on farms. However, NbS almost always also include a landscape management approach. In this wider context, NbS may provide a framework for communal action in conjunction with other types of strategies, for example regional or watershed planning, policy making, or economic development, to achieve societal purposes[3]. Often this may also require the design and/or enforcement of environmental laws, especially for wetlands and water bodies, soil and water conservation measures, and investments in reforestation.

Figure 1: the concept of Nature-based Solutions

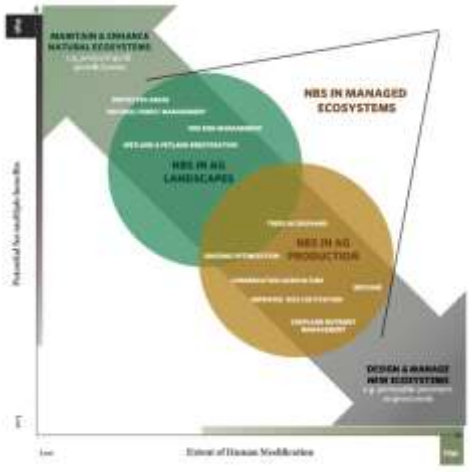

Figure 2: the spectrum of ecosystem conditions in which NbS can apply (FAO, 2021)

[1] IUCN (2020). Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions. A user-friendly framework for the verification, design and scaling up of NbS. First edition. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

[2] Iseman, T and Miralles-Wilhelm, F. 2021. Nature-based Solutions in agriculture – The case and pathway for adoption. Virginia. FAO and The Nature Conservancy. https://doi.org/10.4060/cb3141en

[3] Ibid (1)

The Nature-based Solution Standard

The NbS Standard was released by IUCN in 2020 to provide greater clarity and precision of what the concept entails and what is required for it to be deployed successfully. It aims to equip users with a robust framework for designing and verifying NbS that yield the desired outcomes, in particular in addressing societal challenges. At field level, the Standard can be used to track goals, provide the users with recommendations for improvement, and can be used a common framework for engagement and communication across sectors[4].

The Standard consists of 8 criteria with 28 indicators (figure 3). The 1st criterion focuses on a broad range of societal challenges, many of which may be present simultaneously, and require a common response[5]. The 2nd criterion guides the design of the intervention, and in particular if it tackles the issue at scale and system level. The next 3 criteria comprise the economic, social and environmental viability of the intervention, whereas the 6th criterion measures how the inevitable trade-offs between possible solutions are balanced in a transparent, inclusive and equitable manner. Criterion 7 looks at the adaptiveness of the solutions and implementation process, and criterion 8 captures the incorporation of the intervention in policy and regulatory frameworks.

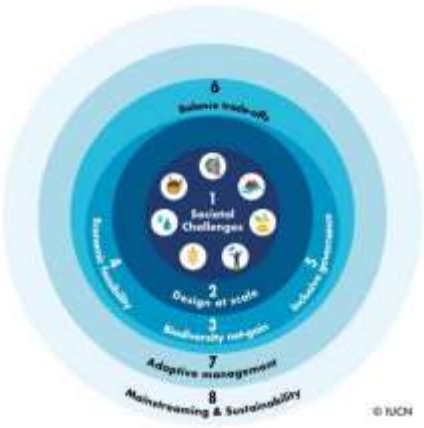

Figure 3: the NbS criteria

For each of the criteria, several indicators are formulated in the form of statements to capture the essence of the ideas of the respective criteria. The indicators can be scored at a 4-level scale from Strong, to Adequate, Partial and Insufficient[6]. The outcome of the scoring is captured in an Excel-based tool that calculates a weighted normalised score for each criterion, based on the number of indicators per criterion and the score per indicator. The tool automatically generates a summary table and a Radar chart for quick reference and reporting.

Nature-based Solutions and NURI

NURI is a five-year (2018-22) rural development project funded by the Danish Government. Its current budget, until the December 2022, is DKK 325 million. For the extension up to December 2023, an additional 26 million DKK is made available from the Danish Climate Envelope.

The Strategic Objective of NURI is '*resilience and equitable economic development in supported areas of Northern Uganda, including for refugees and refugee-hosting communities, enhanced*'.

NURI achieves this objective through three Outputs:

1. Climate-smart Agriculture (CSA): Increased agricultural output of small-scale farmers;

[4] Ibid 2 (1)

[5] One could argue that you don't need to wait for a societal challenge before kicking into action. A proactive approach and language would be more efficient and motivational.

[6] Not Applicable is missing from the scoring system, while in some cases indicators were not relevant for NURI (see for example indicator 3.2, 5.5 and 8.3).

2. Rural Infrastructure (RI): Agriculture related rural infrastructure renovated / constructed using a labour-intensive approach;
3. Water Resource Management (WRM): Climate change resilience improved through agriculture related physical & natural water infrastructure.

Underpinning the original design and interventions of NURI was the notion that Northern Uganda will be affected by climate change in the coming decades. Therefore, climate adaptation was an integral part of the CSA and WRM interventions, and was incorporated from 2020 onwards in the RI projects in the form of resilient designs. During the implementation of NURI, an increasing body of evidence has emerged about the severity of climate change in Northern Uganda, and the likely negative impacts it may have on the livelihoods of the original population and refugees alike[7]. This has in turn fuelled the insight that future NURI interventions may need to have a greener emphasis, without losing the livelihoods objectives of the original design, and that new indicators are needed to capture this shift in emphasis.

A first step towards the transition is the inclusion of indicators that measure technical and management measures to mitigate or withstand climate change risks in the NURI Results Framework for the extension year. A second step was to subject completed and ongoing NURI interventions retrospectively to the Nature-based Solutions Standard. The purpose was to find out how 'Nature-based' the interventions have been, where NURI interventions and processes can be made more climate proof, to test the tool for future application in NURI, and to raise awareness and stimulate dialogue around a broader set of objectives beyond the current results framework of NURI.

The NURI NbS Self-assessment

Methodology

The NbS self-assessment was carried out on the first day of a semi-annual management meeting of NURI held at the offices of AFARD, in Nebbi District on 16th of August (see Annex 1 and 2). After an introduction in the concept of NbS and the assessment tool, the participants were divided in four groups of six members. Each of the teams assessed three NURI activities. The teams' expertise was generally mixed but included at least one expert member on the interventions at hand. The teams followed the NbS-assessment format of IUCN, and filled a corresponding Excel tool for each intervention. The process was managed by NURI CF, with no involvement of external experts, as follows:

Outcomes

NbS scores by Intervention type

Ten interventions were assessed and scored against the eight NbS criteria, as per the table below.

[7] For details: Bakema, R.J., 2022; A Rapid Desk Assessment of Climate Risks and Vulnerability in Northern Uganda. DANIDA

Criterion \ Intervention	CSA Farmer Group with VSLA (2)	Refug Women Farming Groups	Resilient design in CSA	Roads with RD RI	Food forests Institutional RI	Food Forest Individual WRM	Green Roads for water	Spring protection with RD	Water ponds	Average score
1. Societal challenges	56%	56%	56%	67%	67%	67%	33%	89%	56%	60%
2. Design at scale	33%	22%	44%	67%	67%	33%	22%	56%	67%	46%
3. Biodiversity net-gain	8%	8%	33%	0%	50%	0%	0%	50%	8%	18%
4. Economic feasibility	46%	42%	67%	33%	33%	8%	8%	92%	8%	38%
5. Inclusive governance	53%	80%	40%	73%	73%	20%	20%	93%	20%	53%
6. Balance trade-offs	17%	22%	22%	67%	78%	11%	22%	78%	33%	39%
7. Adaptive management	78%	22%	44%	67%	78%	44%	44%	89%	44%	57%
8. Sustainability and mainstreaming	44%	67%	56%	67%	56%	22%	22%	56%	44%	48%
Average score	42%	40%	45%	55%	63%	26%	22%	75%	35%	45%

The table shows an average score across all the interventions and criteria of 45%, with relatively good scores on criterion 1, 5 and 7, and a poor score on criterion 3 (biodiversity net gain).

Spring protection scores particularly high across all criteria, followed, rather surprisingly, by **rural roads** and **institutional food forests**. There is a striking difference between **institutional food forests** and **individual food forests.** With food forests being on the list for future interventions, a further analysis is needed as to where this difference is coming from. Likewise, also the difference between rural roads and green roads is rather dramatic, with green roads scoring inadequate across the entire set of criteria. Possibly, this is caused by the recent start of the green roads interventions with as yet few tangible results.

The WRM group – those who scored Individual Food Forests, Green Roads for Water and Water Ponds – generally scored activities low, having taken the exercise as a baseline, and scoring 'insufficient', where they considered there was room for improvement, where other groups tended to focused more on the current status.

Scoring by NbS criteria

Criterion 1: Most pressing societal challenges understood and addressed, are well-being outcomes identified and assessed

Almost all activities score well on this criterion reflecting the built-up expertise during the long history of Danida programmes in Northern Uganda, and the focus on activities which impact agriculture, as the main source for food-security and household income. More broadly the positive score also reflects the careful process of needs identification and feedback with beneficiaries, and which was originally planned for in the NURI Programme document.

The assessment workshop proposed the following adjustments to increase adherence to criterion 1:

- Deeper analysis of stakeholder priorities
- Bottom-up approaches be assessed and up-scaled
- Strategic documents made available in local language
- Sensitization and feedback to communities be strengthened
- A more integrated Programme design from the start
- Human welfare indicators be strengthened

Criterion 2: Design at scale, addressing interactions between economy, society and ecosystems, considering complementarity and synergy, and addressing risks

An average score across the interventions with two low score outliers: Refugee women farmer groups and Green Roads for Water. For both interventions, the assessors missed complementary activities and synergies. The team recommended the following actions:

- Assess systematically opportunities for complementarity and synergy
- Collaborate more with other programmes
- Consider synergy in the design and start-up of the programme
- Build on Resilience Design concepts to strengthen synergy between different aspects of the programme, and between economy, society and ecosystems
- Assess and consider safety risks.

Criterion 3: Bio-diversity net gain, based on assessment, measurable outcomes, monitoring of unintended impacts on nature, and opportunities for ecosystem integrity enhancement

The **biodiversity** criterion scores particularly low. The scope of the indicators under this criterion (prior and periodic assessment of drivers of ecosystem degradation, biodiversity restoration, and enhanced ecosystem integrity and connectivity) falls largely outside the objectives and monitoring framework of NURI. Although the Standard does not give clear guidance on this, one could arrive at a different score if restored modified ecosystem values as a result of climate smart agriculture, agroforestry, food forests, watershed management, and green roads, were taken into consideration. As such, the current indicators for this criterion in the Standard do not cater well for livelihoods programme.

The recommendations for the NURI extension and a follow-up programme are:

- Assess the state of ecosystems and degradation drivers prior to implementation
- Incorporate ecosystem restoration and conservation, making use of local knowledge
- Upscale resilience design, renewable energy, agroforestry, tree growing- and Farmer-managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)
- Carry out environmental impact assessments for larger infrastructure projects
- Promote environmental conservation in community valued infrastructures, such as protected springs.

Criterion 4: Economic feasibility, cost-effectiveness, consider alternative solutions and resource options

The criterion scores moderately low, primarily on account of missing cost-benefit analyses of most of the activities.

The team recommended the following actions:

- Carry out cost benefit analysis of activities at the start of the programme
- Include contingency budgets for emerging opportunities
- Build on local, existing structures for cost effectiveness
- Include the expected life-span of infrastructure projects / structures in assessing viability
- Make systematic assessment of alternative solutions

Criterion 5: Inclusive governance, feedback and grievance systems, wide participation, identify stakeholders, document decision making

Inclusive governance scores well. The indicator intends to capture the internal governance processes, including a grievances mechanism and elements of mutual respect and equality. However, the teams may also have interpreted it as a measure of integration in local governance structures, which is actually captured better under criterion 8. The recommendations are:

- Maintain / uphold current systems of inclusive governance
- Consider cultural leaders and structures, religious leaders
- Ensure documentation of decision-making

Criterion 6: Trade-offs, balancing costs and benefits, addressing rights, review safeguards

This criterion gets a moderately low score. The concepts underlying this criterion relate to balancing different rights and interests of affected stakeholders, and between ecosystem values and alternative land uses. Although important, it applies better to large infrastructure and restoration programmes, and may have been less relevant in the NURI context. The recommended actions are:

- Consider costs and benefits at the site of implementation as well as beyond the site
- Create awareness around ecosystem values in relation to private and communal land use change
- Strengthen awareness on land-use and land rights

Criterion 7: Adaptive management

Adaptive management scores relatively high, reflecting NURI's culture as a flexible and learning organisation with sensible levels of decentralization of decision making, and room for local adaption of practices.

- Maintain / uphold current system of adaptive management
- Consider sustainability throughout the implementation process
- Systematic analysis of evolving situations
- Implement reflections workshops where relevant

Criterion 8: Sustainability and mainstreaming, enhancing policy and regulation frameworks

This criterion scores moderately high, on account of the fact that NURI is well integrated in the local government structures, builds capacity and influences policies and regulations. According to the assessors, the main shortcoming is the extent and manner in which the project outcomes and lessons are communicated to a wider audience.

- Strengthen communications strategy and messaging
- Increase programme awareness of policies and regulatory frameworks
- Engage with other stakeholders on policy level on issues of policy and regulation
- Consider national level impacts

Future of NbS assessment in NURI

NURI coordination function is currently exploring an NbS assessment of the activities included in this report, targeting beneficiaries and local governments. The exercise will most likely be in the form of Focal Discussion Groups. The thought is to simplify the questions, and use the exercise to bring in ideas and opinions from a wider range of stakeholders.

The longer-term plans for NbS in NURI and its follow-on programme are still under discussion.

Conclusions

The NbS scoring tool is generic and comprehensive. The general nature and its ecosystem focus is reflected in the description of concepts and indicators. These are often at variance with the way NURI describes corresponding or similar concepts and indicators. Although during the introduction of the assessment workshop the CF tried to develop a common understanding about the terminology used in the tool, the uniformity of the assessments was negatively impacted by the low level of experience of NbS assessments by the team, including those leading the process. Consequently, different teams took different approaches to the assessment, and the teams may have interpreted some of the terms differently, causing variation in scoring between interventions for similar processes and outcomes.

At the criteria-level, the eight criteria are a useful framework to plan, implement, monitor and scale the type of interventions that NURI is executing. They also create awareness and a common language within organisations and teams, about the broader ecosystem in which interventions takes place, and provide a starting point to build a meaningful monitoring system. Indeed, for NURI CF the most important outcome was an opportunity to review and discuss NURI activities against a range of relevant criteria. The process gave the team a chance to take a step back and self-assess and lead to wide-ranging discussion and some new ideas.

Nevertheless, the indicators under the criteria are not always relevant for or applicable to all situations. Unfortunately, the tool misses the possibility to remove 'Not applicable' indicators from the scoring system. As a result, the NURI teams handled the scoring of 'Not applicable' indicators differently: some teams scored such cases as 'Insufficient', while other teams scored them as 'Strong'. This has resulted in different scorings between the teams for comparable situations.

Reporting and scoring against the framework requires an elaborate and expert dataset for most of the criteria. These were not always known to the assessors (for example original design studies), or were not collected under the prevailing monitoring system. As a result, the assessors generally scored activities low on documentation, planning and monitoring. In such cases, the NURI assessment teams entered an 'Inadequate' score on the indicator, somehow suggesting that the availability of data is the indicator, rather than the metrics that the data would provide. An appropriate, but not available, choice in the tool should have been 'Unknown', or 'Data not available', after which the indicator should have been discarded.

Almost all criteria require one form or another of base-line and end-line studies; social and environmental impact assessments; financial viability studies; consultations, feedback and grievances mechanisms; management, routine data-collection and learning tools; and a global communications, advocacy and reporting plan. Such a comprehensive toolbox may be more

applicable, cost-effective and useful in large (public) infrastructure and ecosystem restoration programmes. For complex livelihoods support programmes, dealing with thousands of farmer groups and hundreds of small public works, a leaner monitoring system is probably more feasible and cost-effective.

The focus on indigenous peoples in the tool, was not found relevant in the NURI assessment exercise, while the inclusion of refugees would have been useful. This criterion would be more useful if widened to vulnerable or marginalized groups relevant in the context of the particular activity, project or programme being assessed.

It is quite obvious that in many programmes not all interventions, even if they are well designed and have an array of positive impacts, will meet all the requirements of the framework. In particular, it should be realised that the framework has its origin in biodiversity conservation. That signature is widely found in the assessment tool, whereas important indicators for success of typical livelihoods programmes, such as food security, income and access to public services and markets, are underrepresented.

The broad conclusion is that despite the fact that NURI was designed as a livelihoods programme, many of its interventions comply to a fair level with the Nature-based Solution Standard, which was designed for programmes with an explicit ecosystem restoration focus. The assessment reveals that to increase compliance with the NbS Standard, the NURI extension and follow-up programme could:

- more explicitly incorporate ecosystem management and restoration in their intervention designs, communication and implementation;
- strengthen the cost-benefit analyses of intervention options; and
- be more visible at national and global level by sharing lessons and influence policy.

NURI CF found the NbS assessment standard a useful tool to motivate and challenge programme thinking, planning and implementation, and even as a stand-alone-exercises the assessment was a worthwhile exercise.

Annex 1: Self –Assessment workshop programme

Tuesday 16th August 2022

Venue – AFARD boardroom, Nebbi

Participants - NURI CF, NURI CSA unit coordinators, DRC NURI management team, UNWMZ NURI management team (Finance and admin team will meet separately)

Purpose – NURI management teams carry out initial self-assessment against NbS criteria, feeding into NURI extension assessment by Dk Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and generating ideas and recommendations for strengthening NbS in extension and NURI 2.

Time	Activity	Responsible
8.00 – 8.30	Registration	HRC
8.30 – 9.00	Welcome and introduction to the concept of NbS	NPC
9.00 – 10.00	Introduction to the NbS self-assessment tool Split into teams	PMA
10.00 – 10.30	Tea	HRC/ Caterer
10.30 – 11.30	First activity assessment	Teams
11.30 – 12.30	Second activity assessment	Teams
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch	HRC/Caterer
14.00 – 15.00	Third activity assessment	Teams
15.00 – 16.00	Plenary presentation Each group presents 10 most significant / interesting opportunities and recommendations, discussion	NPC
16.00 – 17.00	Wrap up with evening tea	PMA/ Caterer

Annex 2: NbS Assessment Teams

Session support / time keeper –Joseph Kasujja and Ronald Luyera RI and WRM.

Team	1– CSA	2 - CSA	3 - Rural Infrastructure	4 - Water Resource Management
Moderator	Marie Ediu – VSLA Coordinator, NURI CF	Francis Otim, Regional Coordinator, NURI CF	Rilla Kirk, PMA, NURI CF	Joseph Ebinu, NPC, NURI CF
Note taker	Joel Bayo – CSA Coordinator, Moyo/Obongi	Dan Evans, CSA Coordinator, AFARD	Habart Atayo, Resilience Coordinator, DRC	Andrew Ebic, Engineer,DRC
Members	• Robert Bakyalire – Director Programmes, AFARD • Charles Ochan – Coordinator, RAU K/L • Godfrey Bangi – Coordinator, RAU Adjumani • David Edaku, CSA Coordinator Arua DFA • Tairi Musema, CSA Coordinator, PICOT	• Sauda Ropani, Executive Director, PICOT • Alex Acidri, Coordinator, Arua DFA • Jerry Nyeko, Assistant Coordinator Kitgum/Lamwo RAU • Stella Kulia, Coordinator, Moyo/Obongi RAU •	• Martin Malinga, Team Leader NURI, DRC • Jimmy Arubaku, Senior Engineer, NURI CF • Hilda Drebaru, Regional Coordinator, DRC • Godfrey Uhuru Draku, Regional Coordinator DRC • Jerry Thamayi, Regional Coordinator, DRC	• Richard Musota, Team Leader UNWMZ • Emmanuel Olet, NURI Focal Point, UNWMZ • Gloria Drateru, Regional Coordinator, NURI CF • (UNWMZ) • Silvano Baruke, Regional Coordinator, DRC
Activities to assess	• CSA Training of National Farmer Groups, with VSLA • CSA Training for mixed refugee/host groups with VSLA • Farmer Marketing School training/concept	• CSA Training of National Farmer Groups, with VSLA • CSA Training for women groups, with VSLA • CSA Resilience Design demonstration sites related activities	• Community access roads with Resilience Design • Spring protection with resilience design • Food forests for institutions / individuals (differentiate where relevant)	• Combined resilience design sites including SWC • Green Roads for Water

Annex 3: NbS Criteria and Indicators

1. Societal challenges: 1.1. Most pressing challenges of beneficiaries addressed? (More detail will come from NURI preparatory documents) 1.2. Are the challenges understood and documented? 1.3. Are well-being outcomes identified and assessed? (More detail will come from M&E)
2. Design at scale: 2.1. Activity addresses interaction between economy, society and ecosystems? 2.2. Design considers complementarity and synergy? (More detail will come from NURI preparatory documents) 2.3. Integrates risk identification and management beyond the intervention site?
3. Biodiversity net-gain: 3.1. Activity responds to assessment of current state of the ecosystem? (More detail will come from NURI preparatory documents) 3.2. Measurable biodiversity outcomes are identified and assessed? (More detail will come from M&E) 3.3. Monitoring includes assessment of unintended adverse impact on nature? (More from M&E) 3.4. Opportunities to enhance ecosystem integrity identified and incorporated?
4. Economic feasibility: 4.1. Direct and indirect benefits and costs identified and documented? 4.2. Cost-effectiveness considered? 4.3. Activity justified against alternative solutions? 4.4. Activity design considers a range of resource options?
5. Inclusive governance: 5.1. A defined feedback and grievance resolution mechanism for the activity? 5.2. Participation of indigenous people based on mutual respect and equality? (Leave out) 5.3. All affected stakeholders identified and involved? 5.4. Decision-making documented and responds to rights and interests of all participating and affected? 5.5. Mechanisms for joint decision making where activity extends beyond jurisdictional boundaries? (Only relevant for WRM activities)
6. Balance trade-offs: 6.1. Costs, benefits and trade-offs are acknowledged and addressed? 6.2. Rights and access to land and resources, as well as responsibilities, are acknowledged and respected? 6.3. Safeguards are periodically reviewed?
7. Adaptive management: 7.1. Activity strategy is established and guides M&E? (More detail will come from M&E) 7.2. An M&E plan in developed and implemented through the whole lifecycle? (More detail will come from M&E) 7.3. A framework for iterative learning enables adaptive management?
8. Sustainability and mainstreaming: 8.1. Activity design, implementation and lessons are shared? 8.2. Activity informs and enhances policy and regulation frameworks? 8.3. Contributes to national and global targets for human wellbeing, climate change, biodiversity and human rights?