

## **Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions**

- 1. Grantee organization.** African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)
- 2. Grant title:** Protecting Murchison Falls National Park's Buffer Zones through Conservancy Management.
- 3. Grant number:** 109072
- 4. Grant amount (US dollars):** 100,000
- 5. Proposed dates of grant:** 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019
- 6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken:** Uganda
- 7. Date of preparation of this document:** 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018

### **8. Project background**

This project will be implemented in Murchison Aswa Falls Conservancy (MAFC) which lies on the immediate north of Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP), a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in Uganda. The conservancy links MFNP to East Madi Wildlife Reserve (EMWR) and Kilak Controlled Hunting Area (KCHA) and serves as an important traditional wildlife corridor to South Sudan and a wet season dispersal area for elephants and other species of MFNP. Thus, MAFC is one of the key corridor linking MFNP elephants and other species from MFNP to East Madi. Both MFNP and MAFC are within the Greater Virunga-Murchison Landscape, one of the 14 conservation corridors in the Eastern Afromontane Ecosystem Profile.

The idea of MAFC was initiated in 2015 by a group of land owners neighboring the MFNP. The land owners who were practicing subsistence agriculture and livestock had been losing their crops and dwellings to wildlife, a reason that led several land owners to move from the area. Thus, they became interested in investing in wildlife friendly land uses that would enable them gain benefit from their land. After learning about AWF's work with local communities near Lake Mburo and Kidepo Valley National Parks to help them set up conservancies, the landowners neighboring MFNP approached AWF and Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to help them establish a conservancy on their land. Currently, MAFC consists of 53 landowners owning land totaling up to 11,000ha. This project aims to strengthen establishment of the Conservancy and ensure that wildlife outside the Protected Area (PA) MFNP and transiting through the Conservancy area remain safe. This will be by introducing and supporting wildlife friendly land uses that will reduce threat to both human and wildlife.

### **9. Participatory implementation**

The key stakeholders of MAFC are UWA, MAFC landowners/members, MAFC CEC and local government. AWF made consultations with the stakeholders already during the past projects but also specifically on the potential implementation of this project. AWF has engaged these stakeholders in a similar way since 2015 when MAFC landowners approached AWF to help them establish the conservancy. AWF has established good relations with all the stakeholders and holds a good reputation with them all. Establishment of MAFC continues to receive credential support from UWA. AWF holds letters of

endorsement from MAFC, UWA MFNP expressing the stakeholders' interest to fully support this project and ensure its success.

<b>Stake holder</b>	<b>Role in Project</b>	<b>Engagement</b>
Cultural Leaders (Elders) (Men & Women)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give blessing to the project</li> <li>• Offer guidance in activities adherence to cultural norms</li> <li>• Points of entry and outreach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus group meetings/discussions</li> <li>• Presentation of activities and milestones</li> </ul>
Settlers (legal) (Men & Women)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give consent and engage in implementation of activities (voting, planning meetings, land zonation)</li> <li>• Offer land</li> <li>• Offer feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-on-one discussions</li> <li>• Village visits</li> <li>• Round table discussions &amp; Presentations</li> </ul>
Squatters (Men & Women)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village visits/meetings</li> </ul>
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in land zonation</li> <li>• Participate actively in project activities</li> <li>• Offer feedback</li> <li>• Offer land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision making (voting, volunteering as scouts)</li> <li>• Offer volunteer in project activities (meetings)</li> <li>• Feedback</li> </ul>
Men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in land zonation</li> <li>• Offer land</li> <li>• Offer feedback</li> <li>• Participate actively in project activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision making</li> <li>• Offer/ volunteer in project activities</li> </ul>
Youth (Men & Women)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate actively in project activities</li> <li>• Offer feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer/ volunteer in project activities (scouts)</li> <li>• Decision making (voting on issues)</li> </ul>
MAFC Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectively engage in processes and methods of conservancy development</li> <li>• Assess the relevance and applicability of proposed strategies</li> <li>• Outreach to community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings</li> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Correspondences by phone, email and messages</li> <li>• Trainings</li> </ul>
MAFC members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give feedback on land rights and ownership concerns</li> <li>• Seek grievance Redress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community/Public meetings</li> <li>• One-on-one meetings</li> <li>• Roundtable discussions</li> </ul>
Local landowners (non-MAFC members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give prior and informed consent.</li> <li>• Give feedback on land rights and ownership concerns</li> <li>• Seek grievance Redress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-on-one meetings</li> <li>• Public meetings</li> </ul>
Uganda Wildlife Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify gaps and opportunities for action</li> <li>• Give right to process and methods of conservancy development</li> <li>• Outreach to community/Landowners</li> <li>• Provide technical advice (prioritizing strategies)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal meetings</li> <li>• Roundtable discussions</li> </ul>
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify gaps and opportunities for action</li> <li>• Align sub-county conservancy development into sub-county planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• workshops</li> </ul>

## **10. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons**

This project will be implemented in MAFC area which lies to the immediate north of Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP). MAFC is specifically located in Northern Uganda in Nwoya District. MAFC presently consists of 53 landowners and their individual land parcels. Only landowners, legal residents and people who do activities legally within the boundaries of MAFC will be eligible for claims.

## **11. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent**

FPIC is an approach to protect the rights (human, environmental, land and customary) of affected communities. The FPIC process guarantees the equal consideration of the various perspectives held within affected communities, through inclusive decision-making processes.

This project will focus on developing MAFC to enable its landowners to gain benefits from utilizing their land in wildlife friendly manner. AWF will respect the decisions of MAFC and government officials and this will be considered during the project implementation. To begin with, the idea of MAFC was initiated by a group of land owners neighboring the MFNP after learning about AWF's work with local communities near Lake Mburo and Kidepo Valley National Parks to help them set up conservancies. The landowners approached AWF and UWA to help them establish a conservancy on their land. Thus, it is the landowners themselves who are driving the development of MAFC. When it comes to wildlife management in Uganda, UWA is the custodian for wildlife in Uganda; therefore, should the conservancy want to manage their wildlife, UWA would be involved. In this regard, AWF holds letters of endorsement from MAFC, UWA MFNP expressing their interest to fully support this project and ensure its success.

AWF will ensure that land users in and landowners neighboring MAFC as well as local government and UWA officials understand the project scope and will consider constructive ideas from them. AWF will ensure that these and the main stakeholders understand the objectives of the project and expected results.

AWF will engage those whose livelihood, land ownership and roles will be impacted by this project who include the following:

- i. **Local landowners engagement** - will be asked to share their views and propose strategies to solutions in public meetings. Where meetings will be large, smaller groups will be created for smaller discussions and the discussion points will be noted down.
- ii. **Local Government (project advisory)** – will be engaged in aligning conservancy implemented actions with their existing efforts, assess the relevance and the applicability of the strategies being implemented and offer technical advice.
- iii. **Local Population** – will be engaged by the respective landowner upon whose land they reside/utilize through public meetings.

## **12. Measures to Avoid Adverse Impacts and Provide Culturally Appropriate Benefits**

During the land use planning/zoning process (funded from other sources), MAFC, AWF and stakeholders will identify areas under land uses such as agriculture and settlement and will to the extent possible zone them off as settlement and farming zones (so that these activities can continue in their present locations). This will separate such activities in space from core conservation zones where wildlife will concentrate. Where settlements are sparsely scattered and if needed, then the MAFC Conservancy Executive Committee (CEC) will approach these on possible relocation, with understanding of the land owners. These activities together with a scout force trained in human wildlife conflicts mitigation will benefit farmers and settlers in that they will experience reduced loss of crops. With the success of the project, MAFC will be put under improved management with better land productivity as the land use planning and zoning will take into account the most suitable land use with the highest productivity.

### **13. Measures to assist the affected persons**

This project will establish a community wildlife scouts force in MAFC. These scouts will be recruited from the local community. This scout's force will be trained in human wildlife conflict mitigation which will benefit local populations. A fully operational and economically functional MAFC conservancy integrated into the tourism circuit will provide employment opportunities and opportunities for other income generating activities with the Conservancy itself as well as private sector actors. AWF will work with the CEC to promote that such opportunities to the extent possible benefit local communities.

### **14. Grievance Mechanism**

MAFC and AWF will ensure that all stakeholders are free to air grievances and know how to do so. MAFC and AWF will inform stakeholders that they have right to raise a grievance at any time to AWF, MAFC or CEPF about any issue relating to the project and how to submit a grievance and how to contact appropriate parties in case a grievance arises. This information will be disseminated to the stakeholders in the appropriate language of communication, either English or the local language to ensure proper understanding.

AWF will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. After consultations between MAFC, AWF, RIT and CEPF, AWF will respond to the party of the grievance as soon as possible thereafter. Grievances will be filed and considered in the project monitoring and reporting. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at [cepfexecutive@conservation.org](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org) or by surface mail. CEPF will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with AWF. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office. World Bank will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with CEPF and AWF.

Respectively, the following contacts will be shared with the stakeholders:

**AWF:** Mukhwana Methodius, Phone: +256782706123 Email: [MMukhwana@awf.org](mailto:MMukhwana@awf.org)  
Geoffrey Oula, Phone: +256775587144 Email: [GOula@awf.org](mailto:GOula@awf.org)

**CEPF Regional Implementation Team.** Phone: +250784983854 Email: [cepf-eam-rit@birdlife.org](mailto:cepf-eam-rit@birdlife.org)

**CEPF Executive Director:** Email: [cepfexecutive@conservation.org](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org)

**The World Bank Uganda office:** [ugandaalert@worldbank.org](mailto:ugandaalert@worldbank.org); +256 414 230 094

### **15. Implementation Arrangements**

AWF Uganda team will be responsible for implementing this project and report semi-annually to CEPF concerning happening of the project. AWF's conservation Planner (Methodius Mukhwana) will prepare and submit to CEPF a separate stakeholder engagement report every six months as well as a CEPF gender tracking tool both at the baseline and end of the project. AWF will ensure that it works closely with MAFC (members and CEC), MAFC scouts, UWA, and key stakeholders. AWF will organize regular meetings with key stakeholders during the project period.