

Global Programme “Sustainable Aquatic Food” in Uganda (SAF Uganda)

Small-scale producers of sustainable aquatic food have successfully contributed to the transformation of food systems in Uganda

The challenge

Uganda faces persistent food security challenges, with poverty affecting many rural communities that rely on agriculture and fisheries for sustenance. Fish is a critical source of protein for Ugandans, accounting for over 63 % of their animal protein intake, with annual per capita fish consumption reaching 14.3 kg in 2021 – higher than that of neighboring countries.

The country currently requires at least 908,200 tonnes of fish per year to meet local demand, a figure projected to rise to 1,527,300 tonnes by 2040 if Uganda is to reach the global average per capita fish consumption of 21.2 kg.

Uganda has set a national goal of producing 1.7 million tonnes of fish annually from both capture fisheries and aquaculture by 2030, with aquaculture showing its ever-growing role in ensuring sustainable fish supply. GP SAF will support small-scale producers to improve their technical and economic skills in aquaculture. Expanding sustainable aquaculture is key to bridging this gap, improving household incomes, and strengthening Uganda’s food security by ensuring a stable and affordable supply of fish as a nutritious and healthy aquatic food.

The **Global Programme Sustainable Aquatic Food** contributes to a positive change in aquatic food systems, while conserving marine ecosystems. Respecting planetary boundaries leads to sustainable production. Building technical and economic capacities, strengthening small-scale producers and fisheries organisations, and the support of equitable policies are core targets.



Project name	Global Programme “Sustainable Aquatic Food” in Uganda (SAF Uganda)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project regions	Acholi, Lango, West Nile, Teso, and Eastern Central Subregions of Uganda
Political partner	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)
Duration	03/2024 – 12/2028
Budget	EUR 3.15 million

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

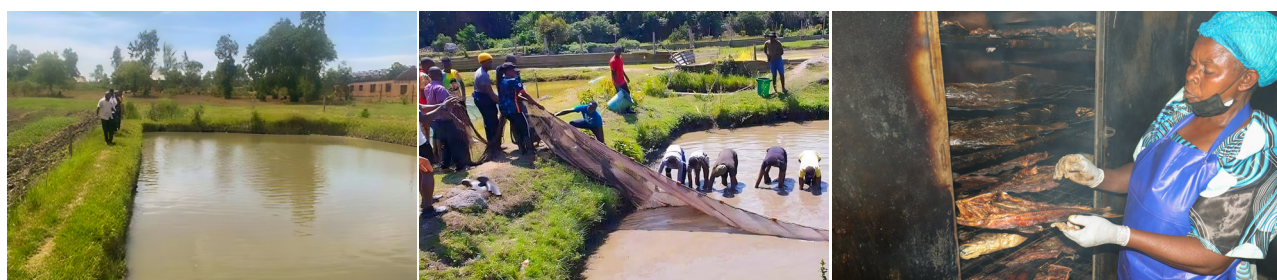
The programme contributes to achieving these sustainable development goals:



Our approach

To achieve the objectives SAF Uganda will collaborate closely with its political partner, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), and its implementing partner, Caritas Gulu Archdiocese. The project will focus on the following key areas:

- Increasing the production of aquatic food through sustainable and climate resilient aquaculture.
- Strengthening the integration of small-scale producers into the formal aquaculture sector.
- Supporting relevant political actors in setting new standards for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.





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The benefits

By December 2028, SAF Uganda aims to accomplish the following outcomes:

- **The production of aquatic food from sustainable and climate resilient aquaculture has increased.**
 - Increase production of 3,500 aquaculture farms, of which 30 % are managed by women, by an average of 30 %.
 - Solutions for the promotion of sustainable aquaculture have been made available on at least 1 digital platform.
- **The integration of small-scale producers in the 'formal' fisheries and aquaculture sector is strengthened.**
 - Cooperations between the private sector and small-scale aquaculture producers are established.
- **Relevant political actors are setting new standards for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.**
 - Criteria for sustainable cage aquaculture are integrated in a national management instrument.
 - Relevant project partners have contributed project findings about the transformation of agricultural and food systems at international forums.

Success factors

SAF Uganda leverages on the strong political will demonstrated by the Government of Uganda, which recognizes both capture fisheries and aquaculture as critical pillars for enhancing national fish production. This commitment has been evident in recent initiatives such as the Responsible Fisheries Business Chains (RFBC) Project, which focused on improving value chains and governance in the fisheries sector. SAF Uganda builds on this momentum by reinforcing the role of aquaculture as an increasingly important contributor to sustainable fish production.

The project aligns with key national frameworks, including the National Development Plan III and the National Fisheries and

Where we work



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Aquaculture Act, all of which emphasize the expansion of aquaculture production and the transformation of subsistence actors into commercially oriented producers.

A further success factor lies in the experience and institutional capacities of the implementing partners Caritas – Gulu Archdiocese and the Uganda National Women's Fish Organisation (UNWFO). Their strong track record in building technical and economic capacities of small-scale producers ensures effective implementation and sustained impact on livelihoods, food security, and sector growth.

Finally, SAF Uganda benefits from the global experience of the Global Programme on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (GP Fish). By drawing on lessons learned, networks, and successful approaches from other countries, the project fosters cross-country learning and innovation, strengthening its ability to deliver context-relevant and scalable solutions.

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