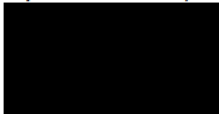
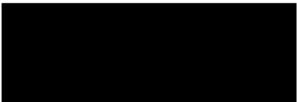




Kunming Biodiversity Fund Direct Allocation Project Proposal

I. Basic Information				
Project Title	National Outlook on Indigenous and Local Knowledge of Biodiversity			
Funding Priority	Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) documentation, capacity building and ILK mainstreaming in biodiversity policies in Africa (Malawi, and Namibia), and SIDs (Trinidad and Tobago)			
Implementing Entity and Focal Point	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS Programme)		Nigel Crawhall, PhD Chief of Indigenous and Local Knowledge Section n.crawhall@unesco.org +33145681498 Secondary FP Joseph Karanja j.karanja@unesco.org	
Geographical scope	Africa and the Caribbean			
Beneficiary Country and Focal Point	Africa (Malawi and Namibia), Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago) Malawi: Martha Mpatso, Secondary CBD NFP, Environmental Affairs Department, mphakalemba@gmail.com : 2 nd contact: Lilian Chimphepo lilianchimphepo@gmail.com Namibia: Timoteus Mufeti, Primary CBD NFP, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, timoteus.mufeti@meft.gov.na : 2 nd contact: Betty Schroder bks7904@gmail.com Trinidad and Tobago: Kishan Kumarsingh, Secondary CBD NFP, Ministry of Planning and Development, kishan.kumarsingh@planning.gov.tt : 2 nd contact David Persaud: david.persaud@planning.gov.tt			
Total Budget (USD)	KBF funding requested :	US\$, 300,000	Co-funding Sources (if applicable):	...
	Co-funding provided (if applicable):	US\$..		
	Total	US\$ 300,000		
Delivery timeframe	February to September 2025			
Date of Executive Council Approval	24 October 2024			
<p>KBF: Doreen Lynn Robinson, Co-chair of the KBF Executive Council</p> <p>Signature:  11.03.2025</p> <p>UNESCO: Nigel Crawhall, Chief of Indigenous and Local Knowledge Section (SC/PBS/ILK)</p> <p>Signature: </p>				



II. Introduction

This section should provide a summary of the problem or main challenges which the proposed project is aiming to address. Based on the problem analysis, please describe how the proposed project could support strategic actions to trigger the accelerated and upscaled implementation of the GBF at the international, regional, national, or subnational level.

Limit: no more than 200 words.

Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) hold invaluable knowledge, practices, and philosophies that contribute significantly to biodiversity conservation. The IPBES (2019) global assessment revealed that at least a quarter of the global land area is traditionally owned, managed, used or occupied by Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, the IPBES (2022) assessment on sustainable use highlighted that approximately 15% of global forests are managed as community resources by IPLCs. Areas with high biodiversity often coincide with IPLC-managed lands.

Despite this evidence, Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) is rarely incorporated into mainstream biodiversity policies. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) stresses the importance of integrating scientific evidence and traditional knowledge to reverse biodiversity loss. It recognizes IPLCs as biodiversity custodians, key stakeholders, and right-holders essential for implementing the GBF.

However, even in countries where ILK mainstreaming is a priority, challenges such as limited ILK documentation as well as limited capacity and ILK expertise among national entities and policymakers hinder its integration. By piloting in three developing countries (Malawi, Namibia, and Trinidad and Tobago), the project will contribute to filling in this gap and contribute to implementing the GBF targets, primarily 9, 21 and 22, and tackling biodiversity threats engulfing target countries, including deforestation and land-use change, that are in part exacerbated by the exclusion of ILK in formal policies. In aligning with the GBF's vision, this funding presents the target pilot countries with an opportunity to assess the state of their Indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and mainstream this form of knowledge system into their national biodiversity targets, NBSAPs and national reporting, thereby creating stronger context-based frameworks for biodiversity conservation compatible with Indigenous visioning, livelihoods and culture.

In addressing ILK capacity gaps, the project will promote cross-regional exchange of ILK experience and practices between Africa and the Caribbean, fostering a peer-to-peer network, connecting ILK holders and experts and key policy makers from Malawi, Namibia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

III. Project Objective

Describe the transformational change or changes the proposed project intends to bring about. And



please provide an overview of the opportunities for reversing the trend of biodiversity loss and achieving the outcomes set out in the 2050 vision, including the four long-term goals by 2050 and the 23 action targets of the GBF by 2030, and thereby contributing to the three objectives of the CBD and its Protocols.

Limit: no more than 500 words.

As highlighted by the IPBES (2022) thematic assessment on sustainable use of wild species, ILK remains under-documented compared to other knowledge systems. ILK documentation is crucial to safeguarding, revitalizing, and integrating ILK into policy frameworks, land use models and conservation strategies. This project aims to initiate a new flagship on “National Outlook on Indigenous and Local Knowledge of Biodiversity” to inform and strengthen the mainstreaming of ILK and effective and meaningful engagement of IPLCs in the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and related biodiversity policies. This project shall be implemented in partnership with IPLCs and their networks, adhering to the principle of free, prior and informed consent in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It will be guided by the multiple evidence base approach and human rights-based approach to guarantee effective and inclusive engagement of IPLCs, thereby ensuring Indigenous Peoples’ rights to knowledge, land, and resources are respected and promoted in the context of biodiversity conservation and ILK mainstreaming in policies.

The specific objectives of the projects are:

- i. Examine the state of Indigenous and local knowledge of biodiversity and ecosystem services in three selected countries and highlight ILK documentation gaps
- ii. Evaluate to what extent Indigenous and local knowledge is incorporated in the revised NBSAPs and national targets in line with GBF
- iii. Evaluate the degree of inclusion of Indigenous and local knowledge in biodiversity policies
- iv. Based on identified capacity gaps, organize tailored capacity building workshops and ILK knowledge exchange forum between IPLCs and national policymakers, to strengthen mainstreaming of ILK into NBSAPs implementation and national reporting.

To achieve these objectives, the project will adopt a strategy to ensure that IPLCs have control over the use and dissemination of their knowledge systems. It will also foster the participation and contributions of IPLCs, women and youth, while empowering young Indigenous leaders as the next generation of biodiversity stewards and knowledge custodians. The gender-responsive approach will be adopted thereby contributing to GBF target 23.

Through the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, the “National Outlook of Indigenous and Local Knowledge of Biodiversity” initiative will be piloted in three countries across the globe: Malawi, Namibia, and Trinidad and Tobago. These countries are meant to serve as a model to regional countries and inspire and peer guide other countries to conduct similar outlook. The outlook will further strengthen the implementation of NBSAPs by ensuring the biodiversity policies and actions are informed by available knowledge systems, including ILK as highlighted in the GBF targets 21 and 22. The outlook could also inform and/or inspire national biodiversity targets



revision and updates and shall also contribute to the seventh national reporting due in February 2026.

Through documentation of ILK practices and customary governance, the outlook will contribute to the achievement of GBF target 9 by promoting customary sustainable use and conservation of wild species by IPLCs. Additionally, the outlook will provide critical information for developing or updating national access and benefit sharing legal instruments to further strengthen the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from traditional knowledge in line with the GBF target 13.

The outlook will also support the implementation of GBF target 14 that seeks to ensure diverse values of biodiversity are fully integrated in decision-making processes. By highlighting the values and cosmovision of IPLCs, this project shall promote the consideration and integration of non-instrumental values of biodiversity held by IPLCs including relational values, that often sidelined over monetary/quantifiable values.

The outlook could further accelerate the implementation of Article 8(j) of the CBD as well as contribute to the Joint Programme of Work between biological and cultural diversity.

IV. Rationale for KBF Investment

Describe the current context (Economic, Social and Political) in the sector, countries, or region/s in which the project will operate and the impacts this will have on project delivery. Explain how this information has been used to guide the project plan.

Please detail how KBF investments are complementary to previous, ongoing, and planned operations in the beneficiary country by the Implementing Entities and other funds. Please state relevant ongoing or planned activities of the Implementing Entities in the beneficiary country. If the proposed KBF project will be integrated within or complemented by a larger project or program of the Implementing Entity / Beneficiary Country, please identify the project or program and summarize alignment and leverage.

Limit: no more than 300 words.

The lack of recognition and understanding of ILK has hindered its integration into national biodiversity policies. The project will be piloted in Malawi, Namibia, and Trinidad and Tobago, where BES-Net and UNESCO have observed interest in the uptake of IPBES assessments to accelerate the achievements of GBF targets, including ILK. The project will augment BES-Net ongoing support, for instance, Malawi as one of the BES-Net National Ecosystem Assessment countries, Namibia as the next host for the BES-Net regional Trialogue, and BES-Net Trinidad and Tobago pollinator conservation project.

These countries, biodiversity hotspots with rich cultural diversity, have sizeable Indigenous and local populations. Malawi is home to thriving biodiversity deeply intertwined with cultures, identities, and livelihoods of IPLCs. Namibia hosts diverse ecosystems, from the vast desert to the rich savanna and the extensive marine coastlines, with Indigenous Peoples making up 8% of



the population. Trinidad and Tobago, known for its tropical forests and coral reefs, has several communities, including Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant communities, with a deep connection to the islands' ecosystems.

While ILK has played a significant role in sustaining biodiversity and ecosystem services in these countries, it largely remains undocumented and excluded from formal biodiversity policies. Conducting a national ILK outlook will help document ILK for consideration in decision-making and national reporting, thereby promoting inclusive biodiversity governance. It will also identify knowledge and capacity gaps that currently hinder ILK integration.

Due to their dependence on nature resources, the project shall leverage their rich biodiversity, cultural heritage and diversity, and ILK systems to accelerate the achievement of NBSAPs and the broader GBF targets. This is particularly important as these countries are grappling with significant challenges of deforestation, land degradation and land-use change. By documenting ILK and enhancing capacity, this project can offer alternative pathways to sustainable resource management.

V . Project alignment

List and describe any past/existing projects, initiatives, policies or other activities in the regions or countries that may complement, overlap, or compete with the proposed project. Position the project in relation to these, explaining how the project will extend any work that has been previously done, implement lessons learned, or develop stronger collaboration between existing projects.

Limit: no more than 200 words.

The project will support the CBD Joint Programme of Work on the links between Biological and Cultural Diversity. It will complement UNESCO's ongoing initiatives and be housed within UNESCO's Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) Programme, which hosts two ILK technical support units (TSU) for IPBES and the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net). The ILK outlook will directly contribute to the IPBES assessments, particularly the second global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services launched in 2023.

Furthermore, the outlook will enrich national ecosystem assessments (NEAs), recommended by the CBD Decision 14/1. The BES-Net ILK TSU partners with the NEA Initiative to ensure NEAs are informed by diverse knowledge systems, including ILK. Eight countries (Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Malawi, and Thailand) have been supported, and their experiences and bilateral capacity building will further strengthen this project. As such, close coordination will be done with BES-Net consortium partners (UNDP, UNEP-WCMC and UNESCO).

Building on UNESCO LINKS' efforts to support the uptake of IPBES assessments, the project will foster IPLCs' engagement in science-policy interfaces. Over the past three years, support has been extended to Argentina, Botswana, Chad, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Nigeria and



Vietnam. The ILK outlook will contribute to UNEP's 7th Global Environmental Outlook, national environmental outlooks, and the NBSAP accelerator Programme. The project will further leverage complementary ongoing GEF funded activities to explore synergies and to strengthen ILK consideration in biodiversity policies and actions. As such, the project will be implemented in close coordination with the office of the GEF national operational focal points and CBD focal points to facilitate regular updates, sharing of findings and experiences, and explore collaboration avenues.

VI . Specific activities

List and describe the main activity/ies that will be carried out to produce those expected outcomes and outputs.

Outcome 2: Biodiversity effectively mainstreamed into policies, regulations, planning and strategies.

❖ **Sub Outcome 1.1:** Enhanced ILK documentation, integration and mainstreaming in national biodiversity strategies and policies across three selected countries.

- **Output 1.1:** Comprehensive assessment report on ILK outlook
- Activity 1.1.1: Conduct desk research and review to assess the state of available, documented and utilized ILK of biodiversity within each target country
 - Activity 1.1.2: Document available ILK and highlight knowledge gaps in biodiversity documentation
 - Activity 1.1.3: Organize national ILK dialogue workshops with IPLCs to gather ILK and assess its utilization in biodiversity decision-making
- **Output 1.2:** Evaluation report on policy options for ILK inclusion in NBSAPs and biodiversity policies
 - Activity 1.2.1: Review and analyse the revised NBSAPs, national biodiversity targets, and biodiversity policies to assess the ILK integration
 - Activity 1.2.2: Organize multi-stakeholder policy dialogue with policymakers and IPLCs to understand lessons learned, opportunities and barriers for ILK integration

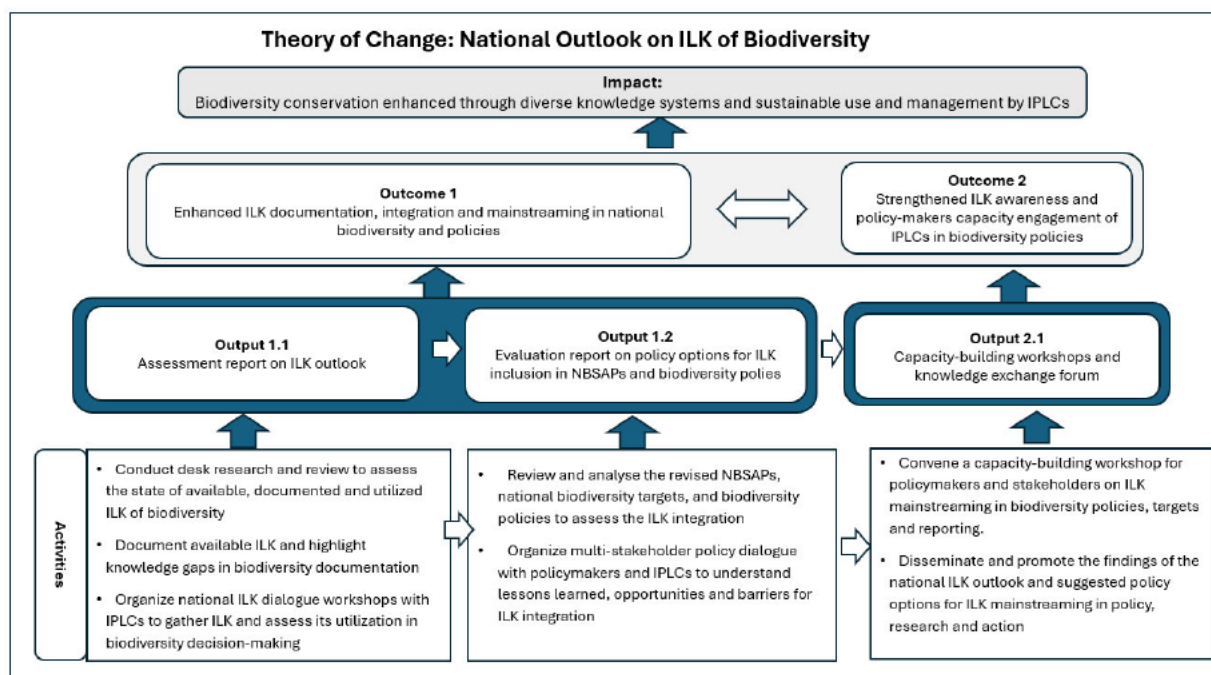
❖ **Sub Outcome 2.2:** Strengthened ILK awareness and policy-makers capacity for the engagement of IPLCs in biodiversity decision making and policies formulation.

- **Output 2.1:** ILK capacity-building workshops and knowledge exchange forum
 - Activity 2.1.1: Convene a capacity-building workshop for policymakers and stakeholders on ILK mainstreaming in biodiversity policies, targets and reporting.
 - Activity 2.1.2: Disseminate and promote the findings of the national ILK outlook and suggested policy options for ILK mainstreaming in policy, research and action

The project will be implemented following a theory of change (see below), grounded in the premise that when ILK is well documented, valued, and mainstreamed into national biodiversity



policies, it could significantly enhance biodiversity conservation through sustainable use and effective management by IPLCs.



VII. Sustainability, replication and scale up

Explain the actions that will be taken to ensure the project results and/or benefits are sustained beyond the project lifetime. List the results that can be replicated or scaled up.

Limit: no more than 200 words.

To ensure sustainability and in-country ownership, the national ILK outlook will be a country-driven process steered by the selected coordination team, with technical support from UNESCO and the national CBD focal point. The sustainability of the project will be further enhanced by ensuring IPLCs' engagement, commitment and ownership throughout the project. In addition, the capacities developed and policy advocacy on ILK documentation and integration into biodiversity policies will extend beyond the project's lifespan, thereby strengthening the implementation of NBSAPs. The national ILK outlook serves as a replicable model for other countries interested in examining their state of ILK and fostering ILK mainstreaming in biodiversity policies and national reporting. As such, the outcomes of this project will inform future biodiversity policies at the regional level, scaling up best practices for ILK inclusion. Furthermore, lessons learned and best practices from the national ILK outlook project will be documented and shared with other countries to facilitate replication and scaling of the approach.

VIII. Gender

Explain what measures the proposed project will take to ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation.



Limit: no more than 200 words.

The project will adopt gender responsive and transformative strategy by acknowledging that:

- ILK is held differently between men and women, and across generations.
- Indigenous and local women play vital roles in managing natural resources, serving as leaders, stewards, and agents of change.
- Women often face numerous challenges, including limited access to financial resources, land ownership, gender-based violence, discrimination, and inequality, that are compounded by the colonial legacies, under-representation, and multiple responsibilities.

The gender transformative strategy shall guarantee equitable and inclusive participation of Indigenous women and promote their respect, in alignment with UNDRIP's provisions on gender equality, ensuring that their knowledge and perspectives are central to biodiversity policy discussions. Gender targets of at least 40% of quality women participation will be set to ensure their meaningful engagement, by recognizing their key role in the transmission and preservation of ILK, ensuring their active participation on the project, and proving a platform to amplify their voices and knowledge.

A human rights-based approach, grounded in Indigenous-defined values systems, will be applied to promote gender equality and Indigenous women rights as well as strengthening the capacities of women to participate in decision-making processes. Partnerships with Indigenous and local women's groups and networks will be supported.

IIX. Communications, Outreach and Learning

All KBF funded projects are expected to have a communication, outreach and learning component to promote project results. Activities and products under this plan are expected to target broader audiences beyond the project's stakeholders to enhance and catalyze further impact. Please describe how the proposed project will achieve this requirement.

Limit: no more than 200 words.

To enhance project's visibility, UNESCO will develop a communication workplan and outreach campaign to be implemented during and beyond the project's lifespan. A dedicated project webpage will be created on the UNESCO website, serving as a hub for updates and multimedia resources, including visuals and news articles. The project will leverage UNESCO's extensive reach and BES-Net communication channels and networks to disseminate project's outcomes and maximize global outreach through online platforms, and UNESCO-led ILK newsletter edition.

Furthermore, visually appealing products, such as posters and infographics, shall be developed to showcase the findings. Upon project completion, a global webinar shall be conducted to share the findings, lessons learned, opportunities and challenges with key partners, including IPLCs, CBD focal points, and donors.

At the local and national levels, a tailored communications strategy will be implemented to effectively reach out to all relevant stakeholders and knowledge holders, leveraging mainstream media outlets, social media, community radios, and community feedback sessions. As a UN entity, UNESCO will work in close cooperation with the respective national governments, the UNESCO National Commissions, UNESCO Chairs and designated sites, as well as the office of the UN Resident Coordinator.



Annex:

1. Budget

Project Activities				Expenditure category	Description of expenditure	Estimated amount	PSC	% of Funding
Outcome 2 Biodiversity effectively mainstreamed into policies, regulations, planning and strategies	Sub outcome 2.1 Enhanced ILK documentation, integration and mainstreaming in national biodiversity strategies and policies across three selected countries	Output 1.1: Comprehensive assessment report on ILK outlook	Activity 1.1.1: Conduct desk research and review to assess the state of available, documented and utilized ILK of biodiversity within each target country	6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	External services to conduct ILK research	\$60 000,00	\$4 200,00	20%
			Activity 1.1.2: Document available ILK and highlight knowledge gaps in biodiversity documentation	1. Staff and other personnel	Consultant: Editorial review and design	\$11 595,83	\$811,71	4%
			Activity 1.1.3: Organize national ILK dialogue workshops with IPLCs to gather ILK and assess its utilization in biodiversity decision-making	6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	Organizing dialogue workshops	\$45 000,00	\$3 150,00	15%
		Output 1.2 Evaluation report on policy options for ILK inclusion in NBSAPs and biodiversity policies	Activity 1.2.1 : Review and analyse the revised NBSAPs, national biodiversity targets, and biodiversity policies to assess the ILK integration	1. Staff and other personnel	Consultant	\$8 000,00	\$560,00	3%
				6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	External services for review of NBSAPs	\$15 000,00	\$1 050,00	5%
			Activity 1.2.2: Organize multi-stakeholder policy dialogue with policymakers and IPLCs to understand lessons learned, opportunities and barriers for ILK integration	6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	Organizing policy dialogue workshops	\$45 000,00	\$3 150,00	15%
	Sub outcome 2.2 Strengthened ILK awareness and policy-makers capacity for the engagement of IPLCs in biodiversity decision making and policies formulation.	Output 2.1 ILK capacity-building workshops and knowledge exchange forum	Activity 2.1.1: Convene a capacity-building workshop for policymakers and stakeholders on ILK mainstreaming in biodiversity policies, targets and reporting	6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	Organizing capacity building workshop	\$45 000,00	\$3 150,00	15%
			Activity 2.1.2: Disseminate and promote the findings of the national ILK outlook and suggested policy options for ILK mainstreaming in policy, research and action	1. Staff and other personnel	Consultant: development of communication products	\$8 000,00	\$560,00	3%
	Project management				1. Staff and other personnel	Staff costs	\$14 778,00	\$1 034,46
5. Travel					Travel	\$20 000,00	\$1 400,00	7%
Programme support cost (7%)							\$19 626,17	7%
Project Total						\$300 000,00		100%



2. Implementation arrangement/Workplan

Project Activities		Timeline							
		Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8
Output1.1: Assessment report on ILK outlook	Activity1.1.1: ILK research								
	Activity1.1.2: Documentation								
	Activity 1.1.3 ILK dialogue workshops								
Output1.2 Evaluation report	Activity1.2.1 NBSAPs ILK review								
	Activity1.2.2 Policy dialogue								
Output2.1 ILK capacity building	Activity2.1.1 Capacity building workshop								
	Activity2.1.2 Dissemination and promotion								



3. Risk Management Framework

Please provide a brief description of the contextual, institutional, and programmatic risks that might hinder the effective delivery of the project outputs.

Risk category	Description	Probability	Mitigation action
Contextual risks Risks related to conflicts, safety and political insecurity jeopardizing the delivery of the project outputs	Political instability and insecurity in some regions may disrupt the project and threaten the safety of project team	Possible	Engage with multiple layers of government and the UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS). Establish partnerships with local IPLC organizations. Where necessary, provide security escort.
Institutional risks Risks related to the beneficiary country's institutions participation in the project activities	Turnover of CBD focal point or key project counterparts leading loss of capacity	Unlikely	Institutionalize national-level activities, along with their outputs, outcomes, and knowledge management efforts, to ensure a smooth and timely transition of key duties and responsibilities in the event of personnel turnover.
	Unaligned national biodiversity targets with GBF before the commencement of the project	Possible	Support the review and revision of the NBSAPs targets focusing on ILK
	Limited ILK understanding among stakeholders	Likely	Deliver ILK capacity building sessions and provide continued technical support, and collaborate with IPLC institutions and ILK experts
Project level risks Risks that may negatively affect the delivery of the project outputs.	High expectations among communities for the project to address prevailing problems beyond the project scope	Likely	Clearly articulating the project objectives and scope and outlining its benefits to communities to avoid mismatch between expectations and project outputs