



Dr Okidi (right) interacts with the executive officer of Africa Innovations Institute, Prof. George William Otim, during the Cattle Corridor Project launch, recently

GOVT RECEIVES SH27.8B TO BOOST WATER SECURITY

By Juliet Kasirye

The Government, through the Ministry of Water and Environment, has secured sh27.8b from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to improve water security and strengthen climate resilience in five cattle corridor districts.

The funding will benefit about 60,512 people in water-stressed districts of Mityana, Rakai, Kole, Pader and Kitgum.

RECURRING WATER SCARCITY

Uganda's cattle corridor, which stretches across more than 84,000 square kilometres, is one of the country's most climate-vulnerable dry-land ecosystems.

The new funding is expected to support communities to better cope with the effects of climate change, including prolonged droughts and water shortages.

State minister for Water, Aisha Sekindi, said climate-induced challenges in the cattle corridor have caused severe land degradation, recurring water scarcity and socio-economic hardships for communities that largely depend on livestock and agriculture.

"To address these interlinked challenges, Uganda has received \$7.5m as a grant from the GEF to finance the *Fostering Water Security and Catchment Resilience in Uganda's Cattle Corridor project*. Government is also committing up to \$56m in confirmed co-financing," Sekindi said.

She made the remarks during the launch of the GEF-funded Cattle Corridor Project held at Protea Hotel in Kololo, Kampala yesterday.

In the remarks delivered by the ministry's permanent secretary, Dr Alfred Okidi, Sekindi, commended President Museveni and the National Resistance Movement Government for supporting climate action and ecosystem restoration through favourable policies, such as Uganda Vision 2040, the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution of 2022 and the National Climate Change Act 2021.

The project, which started in April 2026 and is expected to run, until September 2031, is being implemented by the Ministry of Water and Environment in partnership with Africa Innovations Institute (Afrill), Victoria Basin Facility and JC Holdings Limited through Conservation International.

Speaking on behalf of the deputy secretary to the Treasury at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Denis Mugagga, the head of the Climate Finance Unit, said the initiative is part of a pilot programme under a long-term strategic partnership between the GEF and the Green Climate Fund aimed at strengthening co-ordinated support for country-led climate and environmental action.

Stakeholders from the cattle corridor welcomed the intervention, citing "prolonged dry spells causing losses.

"In Agago, when small water ponds dry up during the dry season, farmers are forced to graze animals at night when temperatures are cooler," Margaret Laloyo from northern Uganda said.

KEY PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

The Project lead of *Fostering Water Security and Catchment Resilience in Uganda's Cattle Corridor project*, Elizabeth Ahumuza, said the programme has five key components, including improving access to safe and clean water for domestic use and agricultural

production through climate-resilient technologies, promoting sustainable livelihoods, strengthening local climate adaptation policies, improving co-ordination, knowledge management and establishing monitoring and evaluation systems.