

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND  
DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

**FIRST PROGRESS REPORT**  
**ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT'S ACTION PLAN**  
**IN RESPONSE TO THE**  
**INSPECTION PANEL INVESTIGATION (REPORT NO. 192945-TZ)**  
**OF THE**  
**TANZANIA**  
**RESILIENT NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR TOURISM AND**  
**GROWTH (REGROW) PROJECT (P150523)**

**February 10, 2026**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is the first and final (as all actions in the Management Action Plan are completed) Progress Report to the Board of Executive Directors (the “Board”) on the implementation of the Management Action Plan (MAP) in response to the Inspection Panel Investigation Report No. 192945-TZ, dated September 16, 2024, on the Tanzania: Resilient Natural Resource Management for Tourism and Growth (REGROW) Project (P150523, the “Project”).

### **Project Background**

2. ***The Project.*** The REGROW Project was approved by the Board of the International Development Association (variously IDA or the “Bank”) on September 28, 2017, for a US\$150 million equivalent Credit. The two main implementing agencies were the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) and Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA).

3. ***Context in which the Project was prepared.*** Wildlife-based tourism was and remains a major component of Tanzania’s economy, contributing more than one quarter of the country’s foreign exchange earnings in 2019. However, tourism in the network of parks in the southern part of the country was not sufficiently developed, which also meant that people living near the parks could not benefit from it. In addition, wildlife poaching, which also degraded the environment, was widespread. The Project aimed to help the United Republic of Tanzania (the “Borrower”) tackle these interrelated issues.

4. ***Project Objectives.*** The Project Development Objective was to improve management of natural resources and tourism assets in priority areas of southern Tanzania, and to increase access to alternative livelihood activities for targeted communities.

5. On April 18, 2024, the Bank invoked its contractual remedies under the Project’s Financing Agreement and suspended disbursements. The suspension was based on the Borrower’s initiation of preparatory activities for resettlement without following the requirements of the Project’s Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). The Bank was also concerned about shortcomings in establishing an adequate Project Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) as per the requirements of the Stakeholder Consultation and Disclosure Plan (SCDP) and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); confrontations between villagers living in the Project area and TANAPA’s rangers; and the absence of a reporting system for the Borrower to promptly inform the Bank of any such incidents. This followed reminders from the Bank to the Borrower on the subject during missions and in letters in August 2023, December 2023, and March 2024. The Bank required all three issues to be resolved before disbursements could resume. This suspension was followed by a high-level Bank mission to Tanzania in April-May 2024, where Management met with representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development (MLHHSD), MNRT, Mbeya Region, and Mbarali District, to discuss the Borrower’s resettlement plans and incident reporting systems, among other issues.

## Summary of Panel Process

6. ***Request for Inspection.*** On July 20, 2023, the Inspection Panel (the “Panel”) registered a first Request for Inspection, IPN Request RQ23/02 (hereafter referred to as the “First Request”), concerning the REGROW Project. The First Request was submitted by two individuals (“Requesters”) who live in the vicinity of Ruaha National Park (variously RUNAPA or the “Park”) in Tanzania, advised by the Oakland Institute, a United States-based civil society organization.

7. The Board and the President of IDA were notified by the Panel of receipt of the First Request. Management responded to the claims in the First Request on August 18, 2023. In its Eligibility Report to the Board on September 19, 2023, the Panel recommended an investigation, which the Board approved on November 15, 2023. The Panel, however, did not recommend an investigation into two of the allegations in the First Request (i.e., infringements of the Indigenous Peoples and Involuntary Resettlement policies), as it found them to be outside of the Project’s scope at that stage.

8. Following Board approval of the Panel’s recommendation to investigate, the Accountability Mechanism Secretary (AMS) offered the Requesters and the Borrower the opportunity to participate in dispute resolution. On December 11, 2023, the AMS informed the Board, the Panel, and Management, in a “Notice of No Agreement to Pursue Dispute Resolution,” that there was no agreement from either party to pursue dispute resolution. The Panel posted its Investigation Plan online on December 14, 2023, and commenced its investigation.

9. After the above-referenced suspension by the Bank of the Credit for the REGROW Project on account of the Borrower’s resettlement planning activities, the Panel received another Request for Inspection (the “Second Request”) on May 3, 2024, from the same Requesters. This Second Request contained new information on resettlement, claiming that evictions were imminent, and negative impacts, including from “*cruel livelihood restrictions*,” were occurring, thereby presenting this issue again for the Panel’s consideration. On May 17, 2024, the Panel recommended to the Board that this Second Request be added to the then ongoing investigation, a recommendation which the Board approved on May 24, 2024. The AMS offered dispute resolution to the parties, which was declined on May 31, 2024. The Panel updated its Investigation Plan to include the Second Request on June 1, 2024. Management provided a response to the Second Request on June 27, 2024.

10. On September 16, 2024, the Panel issued its investigation report (“Investigation Report”) presenting the findings of the investigation. Following receipt of Management’s Report and Recommendation, on February 28, 2025, in response to the Investigation Report, the Board met on April 1, 2025, and approved the MAP.

11. On November 6, 2024, the Borrower informed the Bank of its decision to cancel the Project. The IDA General Conditions allow the Borrower to request such a cancellation. As of that date, the Project was closed. The Borrower’s cancellation and the Project’s closure meant that the Project could not serve to finance and implement the actions addressing the findings from Management’s Report and Recommendation in response to the Panel’s investigation findings.

12. Nevertheless, the Borrower reiterated its full commitment to working with Management on the implementation of the MAP. Management and the Borrower agreed to use trust fund resources and a new IDA operation as a suitable alternative operational platform to enable the Borrower to implement and deliver on MAP actions.

## II. PROGRESS OF MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

13. As of the date of this report, all Borrower and Management actions have been completed. The following provides an overview of the status of implementation of the activities outlined in the MAP.

### *Restriction of Access and Livelihood Impacts*

14. The Borrower has worked with the Bank to support communities in and around RUNAPA in an effort to balance conservation and development, including reducing incidences of conflict and violence in the Park and providing alternative livelihoods.

15. *Borrower Action:* With the Bank's support, the Borrower prepared the Promoting Community Led Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change Adaptation in the Usangu Catchment Project (P502536) financed by a US\$2.8 million grant from a Trust Fund. The Project, which was approved in January 2025 and launched on June 11, 2025, is under implementation by the Borrower's Rufiji Basin Water Board (RBWB).

- As part of Project rollout, 45 vulnerable villages in the Mbarali district, including the five villages and several sub-villages inside Ruaha National Park (RUNAPA) that were discussed in the Inspection Panel's investigation report on the REGROW Project, were identified as target beneficiaries for livelihood support activities, including community groups, water user associations, smallholder farmers, and livestock keepers. The Project includes activities such as provision of grants to local community groups for sustainable community livelihoods and alternative energy sources, as well as financial literacy training; building/installing facilities for rainwater harvesting and storage, solar powered boreholes, rehabilitation of small check dams, and river training activities; hiring youth and women for catchment conservation through tree planting; and construction of climate resilient cattle troughs for livestock keepers.

16. *Bank Action:* The Bank provided support to the Borrower in the preparation of the aforementioned Project. The Bank has disbursed a total of US\$ 1.14 million (41 percent of Project financing) to RBWB as of October 23, 2025.

- The Bank supported the Borrower in preparing all required technical, fiduciary, procurement and safeguards assessments in accordance with Bank policies and procedures, as well as trust fund procedures. The Bank also undertook several preparation missions jointly with the Borrower/RBWB to the Project's targeted villages, including field visits to Mbarali district, to consult with local government

officials and communities, and assess how the Borrower was considering beneficiaries' views in the design of Project activities.

- The Bank supported the Borrower/RBWB through procurement and financial management training, as well as training on the GRM for this project. The information, education, and communication (IEC) materials distributed in local language to the 45 targeted villages included information on the Bank's local office hotline. This is an alert mechanism that receives complaints relating to Bank-supported projects and programs in Tanzania, facilitating prompt and confidential resolution of these grievances. In addition, this Project's GRM is in place to enable community members and other stakeholders to report grievances and other concerns related to Project activities. GRM information is shared and reinforced through existing local government and administration structures. Each of the targeted villages has a Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) that has been trained to receive and manage complaints. These committees serve as accessible, first-line points of contact through which residents can lodge concerns related to project activities, and that help disseminate GRM procedures during routine community interactions and meetings.
- The Bank supported the review of the terms of reference of the non-governmental organization (NGO) that was hired on October 13, 2025, to, among other tasks, provide social services and information about legal services, and empowerment to communities in the Usangu Catchment.

17. *Borrower Action:* With the Bank's support, the Borrower also prepared the US \$100 million IDA-financed Tanzania Scaling-up Locally Led Climate Action Program (SCALE, P180742). This is a Program-for-Results operation with an IPF component, approved by the Bank's Board on June 11, 2025. The Financing Agreement was signed on August 15, 2025, and it became effective as of November 12, 2025. The operation has a strong focus on livelihoods and jobs, with an additional focus on vulnerable and marginalized communities in critical watersheds and around protected areas. While the coverage of the project is nationwide, it includes communities in the Mbeya and Iringa regions in the Usangu catchment around RUNAPA which were within the scope of the closed REGROW Project. Since the IDA-financed project does not operate in protected areas, the above-mentioned TF-funded operation (see paragraph 15) was specifically established to ensure coverage of the five villages and sub-villages inside the Park.

18. The Borrower selected 65 districts where the Program will be implemented. The selection was made using multi-dimensional criteria, verified through consultation with communities and local governments. The Program was prepared in close consultation with the communities, local governments, marginalized groups, civil society groups, and development partners. The Program will finance activities selected by the communities themselves, such as investments in agriculture, and in the environment and natural resources sector, as well as demand-driven alternative livelihood activities.

19. *Bank Action:* The Bank provided technical support to the Borrower in the preparation of the above-mentioned SCALE Program (P180742).

- The Bank undertook several preparation, pre-appraisal, and appraisal missions as well as an Implementation Support Mission carried out from September 29 – October 3, 2025, to assess the Borrower’s readiness for implementation. In addition to the US\$100 million IDA financing approved by the Board for this operation, the Bank approved another US\$10 million from the Social Sustainability Initiative for All Umbrella Multi-Donor Trust Fund.
- The Bank undertook all requisite technical studies/assessments needed to prepare the operation, including the Environmental and Social Systems Assessment (ESSA), as per Bank policies and procedures. The preparation of these assessments and the design of the operation were confirmed in stakeholder consultations held jointly by the Bank and Borrower. These consultations included civil society organizations (CSOs), traditional and marginalized communities and development partners.
- The Bank supported the Borrower in incorporating lessons from the REGROW Project in this new operation, as reflected in, among others, the inclusion of a conflict management protocol in the Operations Manual, support for alternative livelihoods through investments for communities living around protected areas, including communities around RUNAPA which were within the scope of the closed REGROW Project, and active engagement with CSOs from the early stage of Program design and throughout implementation.

### ***Strengthening Grievance Redress Mechanisms and Grievance Redress Committees***

20. *Borrower Action:* The Borrower has strengthened and continues to maintain the strengthened GRM (comprising Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs), toll free lines, and the Government’s digital complaints platform). This includes local Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs), multiple toll-free hotlines, and integration with the e-Mrejesho platform—continues to receive, register, and track cases. Bank supervision is maintaining close attention to GRM coverage, incident reporting, and GRC capacity under both the IDA-funded project and the Trust Fund (TF)-funded project.

- In September 2024, the Borrower distributed more than 6,500 information, education and communication (IEC) materials to raise community awareness of GRM processes and access points, including in the Mbeya Region office, Mbarali district office, in 5 villages and 39 hamlets inside RUNAPA, and another 17 villages outside RUNAPA.
- The Borrower engaged three local radio stations (Baraka FM, Bomba FM, and Highland FM) in Mbeya and Mbarali to communicate information about the expanded GRM, the toll-free numbers, and E-mrejesho (online Government platform). This information was aired for a period of one month from September 2024.
- The Borrower submitted the GRM report on November 4, 2024. The report shows that during September and October 2024, 73 complaints were recorded from communities in six villages through various channels, raising issues such as land-related concerns and compensation claims, human-wildlife conflict, and employment opportunities. All grievances were forwarded to the appropriate authorities, and the report explains how each

issue was either resolved through the GRM, referred to and resolved at the GRC level, or, in cases involving criminal allegations, referred to the police for investigation. Some grievances could not be resolved and the complainants pursuing resolutions in the court. The GRMs for the Promoting Community Led Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change Adaptation in the Usangu Catchment Project (P502536) funded by a TF and the SCALE Project (P180742) became effective in December 2025, and no reports of complaints submitted through these channels have yet been received.

- Under the TF-financed Project, RBWB, in collaboration with the Legal Services Facility (LSF), conducted training for Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) members in 45 villages (including five villages within RUNAPA) and Ward Community Development Officers (CDOs) on grievance-handling procedures, documentation, confidentiality, and the timely resolution of complaints. The training was held from December 15–19, 2025, at the Rujewa Project Field Office. This training formed a critical component of the project’s institutional strengthening and community governance support, aimed at ensuring that project-related grievances are addressed in a transparent, timely, and culturally appropriate manner.

21. *Bank Action:* The Bank visited the villages inside and outside RUNAPA and held meetings with community and GRC members. The Bank’s observations confirmed the establishment of the expanded, strengthened GRM, including evidence of the distributed IEC materials. The Bank provided training to the Borrower during the development of the GRM materials (e.g., flyers and posters). This training included practical exercises, case studies, and role-play, with special attention to ensuring that vulnerable groups could access and use the GRM. Project staff were trained to document grievances, track resolution, and report outcomes in line with Bank requirements.

22. The Bank received and reviewed a GRM report and evidence indicating that the GRM was functional having received 73 cases as of the latest report of November 2024. The Bank provided feedback to the Borrower on the GRM report on November 8, 2024, referencing international best practices and previous experience to support grievance management.

23. The Bank’s Country Office in Tanzania added the Tanzania Hotline (phone number) to the already existing Tanzania Alert system on October 7, 2024, with trained staff handling complaints submitted to the Country Office. The Bank prepared and disseminated to Bank teams working on the Tanzania portfolio a hotline manual to guide receipt and processing of complaints. After the Hotline was added the Tanzania Alert System received 53 complaints by November 2025 via email and phone, relating to 11 Bank-supported operations, including 8 complaints that are REGROW-related and were submitted after Project cancellation. Five of these relate to procurement issues while three concern Government interaction with settlements around RUNAPA. These have been shared with the Government and are being addressed.

24. The Bank does not tolerate reprisals or retaliation, including against anyone who shares their views about Bank-financed projects, research, activities, and their impact. The Bank considers any form of intimidation or threat against project-affected people (or other stakeholders) to be contrary to its values of integrity, stakeholder engagement, and accountability. The Bank has

advised the Government of the Bank's position on retaliation and asked that all parties involved in project implementation be reminded of that.

### ***Potential resettlement of communities inside RUNAPA***

25. *Borrower Action:* The Borrower confirmed to the Bank, in a letter dated June 18, 2024, signed by the Minister of Finance, that the Government currently had no intentions to resettle communities in the foreseeable future and that no communities had been physically resettled so far.

26. The Borrower confirmed again, in a letter dated June 26, 2024, that all resettlement activities had been stopped, including stocktaking, asset marking, and valuation. The Borrower further committed in the letter to make its position public, including clarifying the scope of economic activity that can be carried out by the villagers living within RUNAPA.

27. While local media reported<sup>1</sup> that the then incumbent, now inaugurated president stated at an election rally on September 5, 2025, that 5 villages would need to be relocated, the Government reaffirmed, in a letter to the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) dated September 9, 2025, that no relocations have taken place within RUNAPA and that communities living in and around the park continue their normal livelihood activities. Following the President's statement made on September 5, 2025, the Bank also requested clarification as to whether there had been any change in the Government's position. In October 2025, the Government of Tanzania reconfirmed in writing to the Bank its commitment to continue implementing the actions set out in the MAP, including the commitment not to resettle villages inside RUNAPA in the foreseeable future.

28. *Bank Action:* Following Project closure on November 6, 2024, the Bank no longer has a legal basis to require application of its policies or oversee implementation or terms of any potential resettlement-related activities, should the Government decide to resume such activities. These decisions are sovereign matters subject to national law on involuntary resettlement. Nevertheless, given the central role this issue plays in the community's grievances, the Bank will monitor the situation to inform its broader ongoing dialogue and future engagements with the Government.

29. The Bank is not aware of any information (including from the Requesters) indicating that resettlement-related activities have been initiated in the villages to date. Media coverage analysis<sup>2</sup> undertaken by the Bank from July 2024 indicates that residents of 5 villages in Mbarali District received confirmation that they were allowed to continue their livelihood activities within the villages as usual.

### ***Workshop on Natural Resources Management***

30. *Borrower Action:* With the Bank's support, the Borrower's Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism convened a "*Workshop on Conservation and its Contribution to Tourism and Community Development in Tanzania*" in Arusha on June 13-14, 2025. The workshop discussed

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<sup>1</sup> EastAfricaTV on X: <https://x.com/eastafricatv/status/1963954834534469915>

<sup>2</sup> Analysis of media coverage by (i) Baraka FM – 107.7; (ii) Bomba FM – 104.1; and (iii) Highland FM – 92.5.

international good practice on park management, including participatory approaches to balance conservation with support for community livelihoods. It was attended by close to 200 participants from government, conservation NGOs, local CSOs, private sector representatives, international conservation experts, and development partners.

31. With the Bank's support, the Borrower's Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism convened the second part of the workshop on effective and responsible enforcement of restrictions of access to protected areas on September 29, 2025. The session was attended by high-level representatives from the two Ministries and included a speaker representing the World Wildlife Fund, which is a partner of the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA). The session was focused on URSA's 5-year action plan to support and professionalize the ranger workforce. It was received with interest, and the Borrower requested materials to be shared for further consideration, including the Chitwan Declaration and the Ranger Code of Conduct.

32. *Bank Action:* The Bank supported the Borrower in convening the June 2025 workshop through financial support, organization of logistics, technical input to the program, and identification and mobilization of some speakers, as well as coordination with development partners (e.g., GIZ, KfW, UNDP, conservation NGOs working on Tanzania), who were invited to participate. The workshop covered relevant good international practice on protected area management, including community engagement and benefit sharing.

33. The Bank supported the Borrower in convening the September 2025 session on effective and responsible enforcement of restrictions, through organization of logistics and mobilization of the speaker. During the session, examples of URSA's engagement with governments in other countries were shared, including examples where URSA has worked with governments to adopt the Ranger Code of Conduct and with rangers to build trust with local communities.

34. While there is no active Bank-financed project supporting protected areas at present, as part of its broader country-level dialogue with the Government, the Bank will look for opportunities to remain engaged on the subject matter, including by continuing to emphasize the importance of aligning TANAPA's processes with international good practice in park management.

### ***Guidance on Managing the Risks of Projects Involving Protected Areas.***

35. *Bank Action:* The Interim Guidance Note on Managing the Risks of Projects Involving Protected Areas was issued on January 30, 2025, and shared with Bank staff by the WBG Director for E&S Policy and Operations. The development of a more comprehensive Good Practice Note based on the Interim Guidance Note was issued on December 31, 2025.

36. Since February 2025, the Bank has delivered 12 ESF training sessions for Bank staff, including a dedicated module on national parks and protected areas based on the Interim Guidance Note referenced above, to enhance the capacity of staff working on projects related to these ecologically sensitive areas. Bank staff who participated in these training sessions included task team leaders, environmental and social specialists, the policy and legal departments, and managers.

### **III. CONSULTATIONS WITH REQUESTERS ON MAP IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS**

37. Management met virtually with the Requesters, their advisers, and other affected people on October 7, 2025. The Requesters and affected people joined anonymously at two virtual sites. The Bank team was advised by the advisers that there was one individual Requester at one site and five other people at the other. The Requesters and other affected people kept their cameras off during the call and did not identify themselves by name. The Bank team facilitated the meeting, which began with an opening presentation and background information on the Board-approved MAP and the progress made in implementing each of the MAP actions. The group then had the opportunity to speak, with multiple rounds of comments, questions, and answers.

38. Feedback from the Requesters and other participants primarily reiterated concerns already raised in the First and Second Requests. Specifically, they sought compensation for the impacts of the 2008 expansion of RUNAPA boundaries that predates the Project, including resulting livelihood restrictions, cattle seizures, and violent confrontations with Rangers. They did not provide specific feedback on the progress or status of MAP implementation, aside from restating that it did not address the demands that they had put forward. Management notes that such demands were deemed outside of the Project and the Bank's remit.

39. The Requesters and other participants raised a recent reported statement<sup>3</sup> by the President of Tanzania regarding the possible resettlement of people from the five villages. Related to this, the Bank team explained that it has no information or indication that the Borrower's earlier assurances are no longer valid. In October 2025, the Bank wrote to the Government of Tanzania requesting clarification if there had been any changes to the Government's position not to resettle communities in a foreseeable future. The Bank team asked multiple times whether the Requesters and other participants had observed or heard that any resettlement activities had begun in the villages following the President's statement (see also paragraph 26); however, no specific activities or developments were reported.

### **IV. NEXT STEPS**

40. Following disclosure of this Progress Report, it will be made available to the Requesters.

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<sup>3</sup> EastAfricaTV on X: <https://x.com/eastafricatv/status/1963954834534469915>

## Annex I: MAP Implementation Status

Issue/Finding	Borrower Action	Status	Management Action	Status
<p>The Panel finds that Management did not recognize that Project support of park management would invariably restrict access to legally designated parks, including the southern part of RUNAPA, and that this could result in adverse impacts on livelihoods linked to the Project.</p> <p>Thus, the Panel finds the Project is not in compliance with OP 4.12 paragraph 3(b).</p>	<p>The Borrower will work with the Bank to support communities in and around RUNAPA in an effort to balance conservation and development, including reducing incidences of conflict and violence in the Park and providing alternative livelihoods.</p> <p>This will involve:</p>			
	<p><b><i>(a) The establishment of a project financed by a Trust Fund, which has been developed independently from the REGROW objectives and scope. It will include support for alternative livelihoods prioritized by communities in the villages and sub-villages inside RUNAPA and some communities around the Park.</i></b> The project is supported by a US\$2.8 million grant from Trust Funds. The project will be implemented by the Rufiji Basin Water Board (RBWB), assisted by a reputable local NGO to be identified. The communities of focus will be 45 vulnerable villages in Mbarali District, including the five villages and several sub-villages inside</p>	<p><b>Completed (January 23, 2025).</b> The Borrower prepared and Management approved the Promoting Community Led Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change Adaptation in the Usangu Catchment Project (P502536), which became effective on June 10, 2025, and was launched on June 11, 2025. The launch event was attended by the Ministry of Water, RBWB (as the implementing agency), community representatives, and Management. RBWB has in place a Project Operations Manual (POM) and has formed a Project Implementation Team (PIT) as required. Additionally, a Subsidiary Agreement has been signed between the Borrower and RBWB. The PIT includes a coordinator and financial management, procurement, M&amp;E, environment, and social specialists.</p> <p>The RBWB is implementing the project in close collaboration with Mbarali district office and an NGO. The NGO will provide social services, information</p>	<p>(a) Providing technical support to the Borrower for the preparation and submission of the project proposal to secure financing for these activities.</p> <p><i>Date: February 2025</i></p>	<p><b>Completed (January 23, 2025).</b> The Bank supported the Borrower in preparing the project through conducting all required technical, fiduciary, procurement, and safeguards assessments in accordance with Bank policies and procedures as well as trust fund procedures.</p> <p>The Bank undertook several preparation missions jointly with the Borrower/RBWB to the project's targeted villages and assessed how the Borrower/RBWB was considering beneficiaries' views in the design of the project activities. Field visits were conducted in Mbarali district to consult with local government officials and communities.</p> <p>The Bank reviewed all the project documents and Management approved the project on January 23, 2025, and the Grant Agreement was signed on February 27, 2025. After a satisfactory review of the signed Subsidiary Agreement, the establishment of the</p>

Issue/Finding	Borrower Action	Status	Management Action	Status
	<p>RUNAPA. The Project Development Objective is to promote community-led solutions to climate change adaptation in the Usangu Catchment.</p> <p>Targeted beneficiaries include community groups, water user associations, smallholder farmers, and livestock keepers. Activities include alternative livelihoods, and a range of services (for empowerment, awareness raising, legal information, psycho-social support, etc.).</p> <p><i>Date: Project approved by February 2025</i></p>	<p>about legal services, and empowerment to communities in the Usangu Catchment especially in and around RUNAPA, including training of existing Grievance Redress Committees on gender-based violence (GBV), provision of information and psycho-social support. The NGO was hired on October 13, 2025 (contract signed).</p> <p>The Borrower/RBWB has identified and communicated with the 45 villages in Mbarali District, who will benefit from the project. Some of the villages are inside RUNAPA and others outside.</p> <p>The project includes the following type of activities that directly contribute to community livelihoods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of grants to local community groups for sustainable community livelihoods and alternative energy sources as well as financial literacy training. The small grants to community group members will support sustainable community livelihoods (for example, honey production, rice farming, improved cattle keeping, opening small businesses, alternative energy sources, and others, as chosen by community members). The small grants and training are expected to reduce the pressure on water sources and reduce communities' reliance on protected area resources, thus increasing their economic resilience and adaptation capacity.</li> <li>- Building/installing facilities for rainwater harvesting and storage; solar powered boreholes; rehabilitation of small check dams to stop river channels</li> </ul>		<p>PIT and the approved POM, which were the effectiveness conditions, the grant was declared effective, and the project launched in June 2025.</p> <p>The Bank supported the Borrower/RBWB through procurement and financial management training. Since the training, the Bank has disbursed a total of US\$1.14 million (41% of project financing) to RBWB as of October 23, 2025.</p> <p>The Bank supported training on the GRM for this project on September 22-24, 2025. The training materials included communication materials for the 45 targeted villages. The Bank's local office hotline information is included in the information, education, and communication (IEC) materials.</p> <p>The Bank supported the review of the terms of reference for the NGO that was eventually hired on October 13, 2025. Among other activities, the NGO will train grievance redress committees from all 45 villages to handle grievances, including those pertaining to disagreements within and between communities, such as between herders and crop farmers, etc. This project's GRM is in place to enable community members and other stakeholders to report grievances and other concerns related to national park activities.</p>

Issue/Finding	Borrower Action	Status	Management Action	Status
		<p>from eroding and gullying; carrying out river training activities to enhance flows and reduce flooding and provide water for small irrigation activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hiring youth and women for catchment conservation through tree planting.</li> <li>- Construction of climate resilient cattle troughs for livestock keepers.</li> </ul> <p>The Borrower signed a contract on October 13, 2025, with an NGO for services including handling of grievances, community empowerment, awareness raising, legal information and psycho-social support. Field activities under this contract have not yet commenced due to election period restrictions.</p>		
	<p><b><i>(b) The preparation of a new IDA-financed operation that will scale up locally led community climate actions and support alternative livelihoods.</i></b></p> <p>The proposed Program will help address adverse effects of environmental degradation and conservation, through scaling up locally led community climate actions by supporting alternative livelihoods and engaging with communities. The operation is under preparation and is being prepared for Board</p>	<p><b>Completed (June 11, 2025).</b> The Borrower prepared the Tanzania Scaling-up Locally Led Climate Action Program (SCALE, P180742). The Program was approved by the Board on June 11, 2025, and the Financing Agreement was signed by the Borrower on August 15, 2025. The project became effective on November 12, 2025.</p> <p>The Borrower has prepared, adopted, and publicly disclosed the required environmental and social risk management instruments, and prepared and adopted a POM.</p> <p>The Government has established and designated a Program Implementation Team in Program executing agencies (President’s Office - Regional</p>	<p>(b) Provide technical support to the Borrower for the preparation of the proposed IDA operation for Board consideration.</p> <p><i>Date: June 30, 2025</i></p>	<p><b>Completed (June 11, 2025).</b> From October 2024 to June 2025, the Bank worked closely with the Borrower to support it in preparation of the Tanzania - Scaling-up Locally Led Climate Action Program (P180742).</p> <p>The Bank supported the Borrower to incorporate lessons from the REGROW Project in the new operation. The lessons are reflected in: (i) the inclusion in the OM of a conflict management protocol, (ii) a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to ensure meaningful engagement of local stakeholders, including civil society, in the selection and implementation of investments; (iii) the Program’s GRM actively addressing community grievances, including through existing</p>

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	<p>consideration in FY25. While national in scope, it will build upon support provided under the TF grant to vulnerable communities in the Usangu Catchment, including Mbarali District.</p> <p>The design of this operation will be based on a socio-economic assessment of the relevant communities, which will be done in consultation with the residents of villages affected by livelihood restrictions. The operation will also include the updated GRM. The community-based activities under this operation will support alternative livelihoods, including micro-finance, community forestry, clean cooking, legal information, social services, and community empowerment, among others.</p> <p><i>Date: June 30, 2025</i></p>	<p>Administration and Local Government, President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government and Special Departments, Vice President's Office, First Vice President Office, Ministry of Finance, and President's Office - Finance and Planning).</p> <p>The Borrower established a Program Steering Committee and National Inter-agency Technical Committee to provide oversight, leadership, and coordination of the Program.</p> <p>Further, the Borrower selected 65 districts where the Program will be implemented. These districts were selected using multi-dimensional criteria, verified through consultation with communities and local governments, namely: (i) climate impact, physiobiological impact, impact on ecosystem services and productivity, and impact on human health and livelihoods; (ii) poverty; and (iii) readiness to engage in the Program.</p> <p>The Program was prepared in close consultation with the communities, local governments, marginalized groups, civil society groups, and development partners. The operation has a strong focus on livelihoods and jobs, and there is an additional focus on vulnerable and marginalized communities in critical watersheds and around protected areas, including in Mbeya and Iringa regions, where the Usangu catchment is located.</p> <p>The Program will finance activities selected by the communities themselves. These may include, among others,</p>		<p>hotlines; (iv) the Investment Project Financing component to strengthen national environmental and social risk management systems; (v) active engagement of CSOs from Program design throughout implementation, and in technical support as part of the implementation arrangements; and (vi) support for alternative livelihoods through investments for communities living around protected areas.</p> <p>The Bank supported the Borrower through a series of preparation missions and conducted pre-appraisal and appraisal missions of the Program. The Bank undertook all requisite technical studies/assessments needed to prepare the operation, as per Bank polies and procedures. The technical, environmental and social, and fiduciary assessments were conducted during this period. Further, the Bank supported the Borrower/RBWB in preparing the Program Action Plan, as required by the Bank's Program for Results procedures. The preparation of these assessments and the design of the operation were confirmed in stakeholder consultations held jointly by the Bank and Borrower. These consultations included CSOs, traditional and marginalized communities, and development partners.</p> <p>Further, the Bank provided training to the Borrower on the Environment and Social Framework, and reviewed the Environmental, Social, Health, and Safety (ESHS) risk of the IPF component. An Environmental and</p>

Issue/Finding	Borrower Action	Status	Management Action	Status
		<p>investments in the agriculture sector, such as agroforestry, reforestation, and rehabilitation of degraded rangelands; investments in the water that improve community access to water or promote climate smart water conservation through nature-based solutions; investments in the environment and natural resource sector, such as landscape and watershed management and community-based forest management; seagrass/ seaweed/mangroves, community-based and demand-driven alternative livelihood activities, such as ecotourism, agroforestry, beekeeping, handicraft making, establishment of community conservation banks, fodder production, reforestation, and setting up of water-efficient irrigation systems and alternative energy sources.</p> <p>An updated GRM will be disseminated in all districts participating under SCALE once Program activities are rolled out.</p>		<p>Social Commitment Plan and a draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan were prepared and disclosed on May 21, 2025.</p> <p>The Board approved the IDA financing for US\$100 million on June 11, 2025. Concomitantly, Management approved an additional US\$10 million from the Social Sustainability Initiative for All Umbrella Multi-Donor Trust Fund.</p> <p>The Bank conducted an Implementation Support Mission from September 29 – October 3, 2025, to assess the Borrower’s readiness for implementation, and: (i) agree on the Operational Manual (including the local government management procedures for the various grant schemes, covering processes for disbursement, procurement, safeguards, and reporting; (ii) confirm institutional and coordination arrangements at national, regional, and local government levels aligned with the Borrower’s and Bank’s requirements; (iii) finalize the results framework, monitoring and evaluation system, and reporting protocols, ensuring linkage with the national monitoring, reporting, and verification system; (iv) review fiduciary, environmental, and social safeguards arrangements and agree on capacity-building measures required for effective compliance during implementation; (v) agree on the first 12-month implementation plan and updated procurement plan, including key milestones, deliverables, and sequencing of activities; and (vi) confirm financial management, flow of</p>

Issue/Finding	Borrower Action	Status	Management Action	Status
				<p>funds, and audit arrangements to ensure readiness for disbursement.</p> <p>The Program became effective on November 12, 2025.</p>
	<p>(c) The Borrower will maintain the strengthened GRM (comprising GRCs, toll free lines, and the Government’s digital complaints platform). The GRCs have been strengthened through training, adherence to the updated GRM Manual and continuous dissemination of IEC materials.</p> <p><b>Completed: November 6, 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Completed (November 6, 2024).</b> The Borrower continues to operate the improved GRM system, including GRCs. Toll-free lines and the Borrower’s digital complaints platform remain open for public grievance registration and tracking. In September 2024, the Borrower distributed more than 6,500 IEC materials to raise community awareness of GRM processes and access points.</p> <p>The Borrower distributed IEC materials with information on the GRM mechanism in the Mbeya Region office, Mbarali district office, in 5 villages and 39 hamlets inside RUNAPA, and another 17 villages outside of RUNAPA.</p> <p>Training was provided to the Borrower by the Bank team on the strengthened GRM, that included practical exercises, case studies, and role-play, with special attention to ensuring that vulnerable groups could access and use the GRM. Project staff were trained to document grievances, track resolution, and report outcomes in line with Bank requirements.</p> <p>Further, the Borrower engaged three local radio stations (Baraka FM, Bomba FM and Highland FM) in Mbeya and Mbarali to communicate and air information about the expanded GRM, the toll-free numbers project and E-mrejesho (online Government platform</p>	<p>(c.1) Management will confirm that a strengthened GRM is in place through GRM reports (number and types of grievances lodged and addressed).</p> <p><b>Completed: November 6, 2024</b></p> <p>(c.2) Management will set up and maintain the Country Office hotline and email (“Tanzania Alert”) for additional grievance reporting in relation to its lending portfolio.</p> <p><b>Completed: June 25, 2024</b></p>	<p>(c.1) <b>Completed (November 6, 2024).</b> Management confirmed that the strengthened GRM is in place and operational through the following steps:</p> <p>The Bank supported the Borrower through training during the development of GRM materials, e.g., fliers and posters.</p> <p>The Bank visited the villages inside and outside RUNAPA, held meetings with community and GRC members, and observed/confirmed establishment of the expanded GRM, including evidence of distributed IEC materials. The Bank team interacted with the GRC members during these visits.</p> <p>Finally, the Bank received and reviewed a GRM report and evidence that the GRM was working and had received 73 cases as of the latest report in November 2024. These cases concerned land-related issues, project activities, marital matters, and compensation claims. Other complaints were related to compensation, relocation, information on IEC material, job opportunities, farms issues, employment opportunities, family and community matters, GRM awareness, loss of farms, payments, agriculture, Human-Wildlife Conflict, information on visiting national parks,</p>

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		<p>The radio aired the information from September 2024 for a period of one month.</p>		<p>loss of land, and illegal fishing in RUNAPA.</p> <p>(c.2) <b>Completed June 25, 2024.</b> The Tanzania Country Office added the Tanzania Hotline (phone number) to the already existing Tanzania Alert system on October 7, 2024, with trained staff handling complaints. Since enhancing the mechanism, the hotline has received 53 complaints through email and phone from 11 projects and/or programs, which have been or are being processed. A hotline manual to guide receipt and processing of complaints has been prepared and disseminated to Bank teams working on the Tanzania portfolio. Some of the complaints registered through the Hotline were from the Oakland Institute and repeated allegations contained in the Requests for Inspection. Others related to contact management, outstanding payments, unfair decisions, procurement, land, non-payments, construction, and conflict of interest.</p> <p>Out of the 53 complaints, eight are REGROW related and were submitted after project cancellation. Five of these touch on contractual matters while three concerned Government interaction with settlements around RUNAPA. These have been shared with the Government and are being addressed.</p>
	<p>(d) The Borrower will submit a report on implementation of the GRM.</p>	<p><b>Completed (November 6, 2024).</b> The Borrower submitted the GRM report on November 4, 2024. As stated above, during September and October 2024, 73</p>	<p>(d) Management will review the report on GRM implementation and provide feedback to the Borrower</p>	<p><b>Completed (November 11, 2024).</b> Management reviewed the GRM implementation report on November 4, 2024, and gave feedback to the</p>

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	<p><b>Completed: November 6, 2024</b></p>	<p>complaints were recorded from communities in six villages through various channels, including toll-free numbers, media platforms, and the GRCs at village, district, and regional levels. These complaints covered land-related concerns, project activities, marital matters, and compensation claims. Other complaints were related to compensation, relocation, information on IEC materials, job opportunities, farm issues, employment opportunities, family and community matters, GRM awareness, loss of farms, payments, agriculture, Human-Wildlife Conflict, information on visiting national parks, loss of land, and illegal fishing in RUNAPA. All these grievances were referred to the appropriate authorities. The report describes how each grievance was managed.</p>	<p>based on international experience.</p> <p><b>Completed: November 11, 2024</b></p>	<p>Borrower on November 8, 2024, referencing international best practices and previous experience to support grievance management.</p>
	<p>(e) The Borrower will confirm that the communities inside RUNAPA will not be resettled in the foreseeable future.</p> <p><b>Completed June 26, 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Completed (June 26, 2024).</b> Confirmed by the Borrower on June 18, 2024, and June 26, 2024.</p> <p>In a letter dated June 18, 2024, signed by the Minister of Finance, the Borrower stated that it currently had no intention to resettle communities in the foreseeable future and that no communities had been physically resettled so far. In a letter dated June 26, 2024, the Borrower confirmed that all processes related to resettlement had been stopped, including stocktaking, and asset marking and valuation, and further committed to making its position known to the village residents within RUNAPA, including clarifying the scope of</p>	<p>(e) Bank Management received the Borrower’s confirmation dated June 18, 2024, and June 26, 2024.</p> <p><b>Completed: June 26, 2024.</b></p>	<p>The Bank received assurances on June 18 and June 26, 2024, regarding the Borrower’s intent not to resettle communities in RUNAPA in the foreseeable future.</p> <p><b>Completed.</b> The REGROW Project closed on November 6, 2024. As a result, should the Government decide to resume resettlement planning activities, the Bank would no longer have a legal basis to require that such resettlement follow Bank policies or to oversee implementation or terms of resettlement-related activities, if any. Such decisions would be sovereign matters subject to national law on involuntary resettlement.</p>

Issue/Finding	Borrower Action	Status	Management Action	Status
		<p>economic activity that can be carried out by the villagers living within RUNAPA.</p> <p>This message was formally communicated to residents by the Ruaha Assistant Conservation Commissioner, the Mbarali District Commissioner, and emissaries of the President.</p> <p>During an election rally on September 5, 2025, the incumbent president called on community members to protect RUNAPA, stressing its ecological importance in sustaining water flows and supporting power generation through hydropower projects. In that regard, she reportedly stated that five villages would have to be relocated, and the rest would remain where they are.</p> <p>Meanwhile, on September 15, 2025, the Government in a letter to the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reaffirmed that no relocations have been conducted within RUNAPA and that communities residing in and around the park continue their normal livelihood activities, including farming, grazing, and fishing, within their village boundaries. The letter further stated that the Government has no plans to relocate these villages in the foreseeable future, and any future considerations would strictly adhere to established legal frameworks and safeguards.</p>		<p>Although local media reported that the incumbent president stated at a September 5, 2025 election rally that five villages would need to be relocated, the Government reaffirmed in a September 15, 2025 letter to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights that no relocations have taken place within RUNAPA. The letter also confirmed that communities in and around the park continue their normal livelihoods, and that the Government has no plans to relocate these villages in the foreseeable future. Any future considerations, it noted, would follow established legal frameworks and safeguards.</p> <p>In October 2025, the Bank asked the Government of Tanzania to clarify whether its position on not resettling communities in the foreseeable future had changed. The Government confirmed that the actions and commitments as recorded in the MAP remain unchanged.</p> <p>The Bank team has also not received any information – including from the Requesters – that resettlement related activities have been initiated in the villages to date.</p>

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<p>Assessment of the Implementing Entity’s Capacity and Consideration of Human Health and Safety; and Social Aspects as a result of Project Activities</p> <p>...Panel finds the Project is not in compliance with the IPF Policy, paragraph 5, which requires the Bank to assess the appropriateness of the needs and capacity of the borrower and any project implementation entity. The Panel also finds the Project is not in compliance with the Bank’s Environmental Assessment Policy, OP 4.01, paragraph 3, which requires a project to take into account human health and safety and the institutional capabilities related to</p>	<p>The Borrower will convene a workshop with development partners, including the Bank, to discuss international good practice on park management, including participatory approaches to balance conservation with support for community livelihoods. This will further inform policies and practices applicable to park management in Tanzania, including best practices relating to the use of force hierarchy; conflict avoidance; and community engagement and benefit sharing.</p> <p><b>Date: May 31, 2025</b></p>	<p><b>Completed (September 29, 2025).</b> On June 13-14, 2025, the Borrower, through MNRT, convened a “Workshop on Conservation and its Contribution to Tourism and Community Development in Tanzania” in Arusha, with support from the Bank. The workshop was attended by close to 200 participants, including Borrower representatives, conservation NGOs, local CSOs, private sector representatives, international conservation experts, and development partners.</p> <p>The workshop included sessions on: (1) community-based conservation and benefit sharing; (2) tools, innovations, and knowledge for effective conservation; (3) lessons from forest protected areas; and (4) innovative financing for conservation. The workshop discussed good international practice on community engagement and benefit sharing.</p> <p>On September 29, 2025, the Borrower, through its Ministry of Finance and MNRT, convened the second part of the workshop with a session on effective and responsible enforcement of restrictions of access to protected areas. The session focused on the Universal Ranger Support Alliance’s (URSA) Action Plan to support and professionalize the ranger workforce.<sup>4</sup> The session was attended by high-level</p>	<p>The Bank will support the Borrower, in collaboration with other development partners, to convene this workshop to discuss relevant good international practice on protected area management including on effective and responsible enforcement of restrictions, conflict avoidance, community engagement and benefit sharing.</p> <p><b>Date: May 31, 2025</b></p>	<p><b>Completed (September 29, 2025).</b> The Bank supported the Borrower to convene the June 2025 workshop through financial support, organization of logistics, technical input to the program, and identification and mobilization of some speakers. The Bank coordinated with development partners, (including GIZ and KfW of Germany, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the US Embassy in Dar, as well as several conservation NGOs working on Tanzania), who were invited to participate.</p> <p>The sessions on community-based conservation and benefit-sharing included discussion of good international practice, as well as experiences from local conservation actors in Tanzania. Acknowledging that equitable benefit-sharing enhances community stewardship, delivers direct community benefits, and reduces conservation-related conflicts, the main recommendations discussed included: (i) institutionalizing accountable and transparent benefit-sharing frameworks; (ii) granting legal recognition to community-managed areas; and (iii) building governance, ecological literacy, and financial management capacities of community actors.</p>

<sup>4</sup> URSA is a global coalition of conservation organizations formed in 2020 to implement the 2019 International Ranger Federation’s (IRF) Chitwan Declaration. The Chitwan Declaration, endorsed by over 550 rangers from 70 countries, outlines critical needs and priorities for the global ranger community, including on welfare, community relations, capacity building, and gender equality, among others. IRF is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization that provides a global forum for park rangers, promoting the professional development of rangers and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and technology in protected area management.

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<p>the environmental and social aspects.</p>		<p>representatives from the two Ministries and included a speaker from the World Wildlife Fund, which is a partner of URSA.</p> <p>The presentation focused on URSA’s 5-year action plan, which covers: (1) advocacy and representation; (2) capacity; (3) employment and welfare; (4) equality and equity; and (5) community relations, conduct and accountability. URSA’s action plan aims to ensure that: (i) by 2025, a common framework for improving and sustaining ranger capacity is in place and increasingly adopted and implemented; (ii) by 2025, global minimum standards for ranger employment and welfare are developed, and increasingly adopted nationally to enhance ranger working conditions and well-being; and (iii) by 2025, rangers in all International Ranger Federation (IRF) regions are operating within a framework of working practices, ethics and conduct that value and build trust with communities and the public and promote responsibility and accountability. The Ranger Code of Conduct, developed by IRF in collaboration with URSA and in consultation with rangers worldwide, was presented as a tool that provides a global guiding framework of ethical principles and professional standards for rangers that can be adapted to national contexts. The session highlighted that its principles cover using force proportionally and prioritizing conflict avoidance to ensure safety and accountability.</p>		<p>The Bank also supported the Borrower, through organization of logistics and mobilization of the speaker, to convene a separate session on September 29, 2025 on effective and responsible enforcement of restrictions.</p> <p>Examples were shared of URSA’s engagement with governments in other countries, where URSA supported adoption by the government of the Ranger Code of Conduct as it looked to strengthen processes after allegations of abuses, which helped ensure rangers had an understanding of expected behaviors and helped demonstrate a commitment to the protection of people and wildlife, and to upholding human rights. Other examples where URSA has worked with rangers to build trust with local communities were also provided.</p>

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		The presentation was received with interest, and the Borrower requested the materials to be shared with them for further consideration, notably the Chitwan Declaration, the URSA Action Plan, and the Ranger Code of Conduct.		
			(b) Management will prepare an Interim Guidance Note on Managing the Risks of Projects Involving Protected Areas. The note will promote sustainable management of protected areas in a way that addresses both ecological goals and the rights of local communities, while ensuring that security risks and the potential for conflict are managed responsibly during project preparation and supervision.  <i>Completed: January 30, 2025</i>	<b>Completed (January 30, 2025).</b> The Interim Guidance Note on Managing the Risks of Projects Involving Protected Areas was issued on January 30, 2025, and shared with Bank staff by the Bank’s Chief Environmental and Social Standards Officer.
			(c) Based on the Interim Guidance Note, Management will prepare a more comprehensive Good Practice Note on the same topic.  <i>Date: December 31, 2025</i>	<b>Completed.</b> The Good Practice Note has been prepared and was issued on December 31, 2025.
			(d) Management will design and deliver a staff training program on the Environmental and Social	<b>Completed.</b> Since February 2025, twelve staff training sessions have been conducted for task team leaders, environmental and social specialists,

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			<p>Framework (ESF), to include a dedicated module focused on national parks and protected areas. This new module, which is based on the Interim Guidance Note referred to above, is designed to enhance the capacity of staff working on projects related to these ecologically sensitive areas. It covers a range of important topics, including the preparation of Process Frameworks, and the identification and management of risks related to the enforcement of access restrictions. It will include training on the mitigation of broader community impacts and risks relating to the enforcement of park rules and access restrictions through participatory processes and mechanisms for identifying sustainable livelihoods, and for conflict prevention and management.</p> <p><i>Date: May 31, 2025</i></p>	<p>the policy and legal departments, and managers.</p>