

# Opportunities and Challenges in Harnessing Indigenous Knowledge to build efforts for Climate Resilient Health Systems in Uganda



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# Background

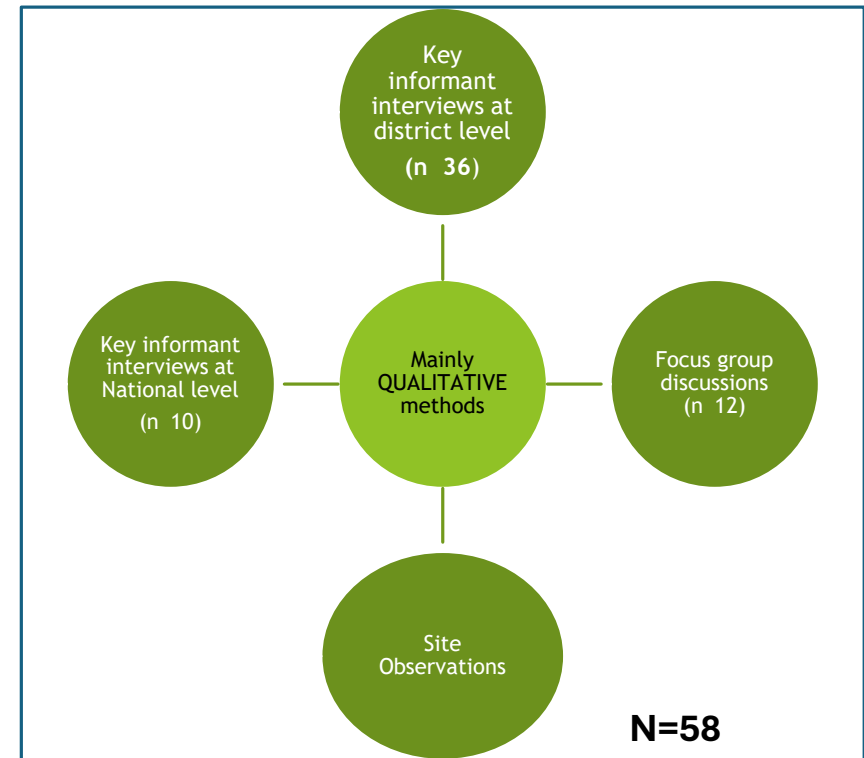
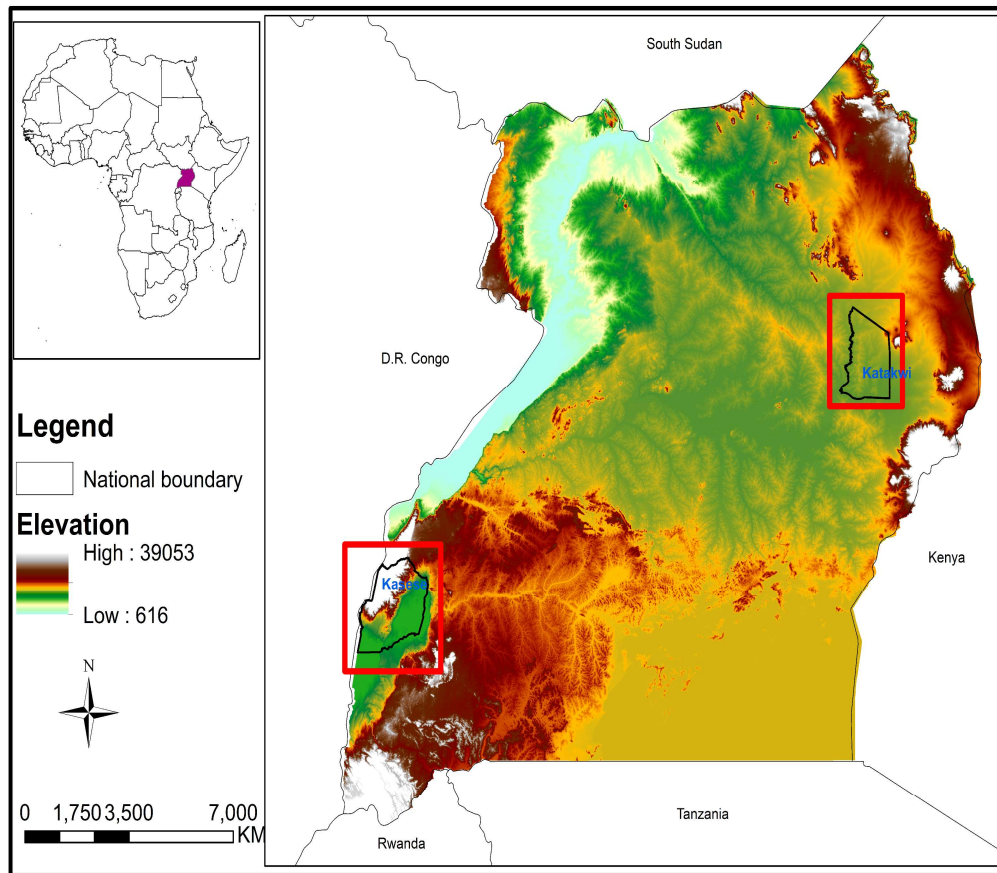
## Why care about Indigenous Knowledge in climate change resilience?

- Resilience to climate change needs to blend science and Indigenous knowledge to build sustainable interventions for response
- Interventions need to be built on community understanding, to facilitate acceptability and sustainability.
- A resilient intervention is sustainable, affordable, and able to change

## Study objective(s)

- To explore opportunities and challenges for incorporating Indigenous knowledge in prediction and response to building climate resilient systems in Uganda

# Study methods



## Opportunities and challenges: Use of Indigenous knowledge for prediction of floods and drought



*“you know what we have learned is when the hornbills come nearer homes, the rains will be too heavy. They come near homes because they also want shelter.” **KII\_ NGO\_ Katakwi***

*“[...] for drought, most cases when you receive a lot of rain, but there’s a dry time around July there and you see a dry season going beyond the expected, then there, it’s suspected.” **KII- District official\_ Kasese***

- + use of natural phenomenon to predict events
- IK discounted
- IK may be unreliable due to climate change(e.g. regularity may change)

# Opportunities and challenges: Use of Indigenous knowledge for response to floods and drought

## Risk communication



*"elders have ways of checking. When they notice that the water volume in the river is swelling, they begin to alert the rest of the community by hitting drums hung at a higher altitude and those with megaphones begin alerting people.,"*

**KII - district Official -Kasese**

## Post-harvest handling



- + fusion of Food storage ideas- making community silos/food banks
- Commercialisation of inputs and related resistance
- IK may be unreliable due to climate change(e.g regularity may change)
- + digitalization of risk communication Vs slow action

# Opportunities and challenges: Use of Indigenous knowledge for response to floods and drought

Reinforcing each others' houses



+ fusion of knowledge to build flood resistant houses by CBOs/ NGOs  
-but cost of materials!

Temporary relocation to higher ground/ neighbouring areas unaffected by floods (with relatives, friends, neighbors)

# Conclusion and Recommendations

- Communities continue to use Indigenous knowledge, whether incorporated or not into external interventions. Therefore, their views and perceptions need to be adapted.
- Actors in disaster response need to explore plausible ways of understanding community perceptions and what actions can be taken. This can then inform designing feasible and acceptable interventions, and this will contribute to community resilience to climatic shocks

