



# **RESILIENCE, ADAPTATION & INCLUSION**

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NIRAS Capability Statement

October 2023

# About the NIRAS Group

Owned by a foundation and a percentage of its employees, NIRAS is an international multi-disciplinary consultancy with Nordic roots. Since 1912, we have been designing, implementing, and managing projects and investments that create opportunities for people to improve their lives and live in safe, equal, well-governed, and climate-resilient societies. In fulfilling our purpose of building a more equal, stable and sustainable world, we aim to be a recognised driver of positive change and innovation in sustainable development at local and global levels. As a values-driven consultancy company powered by a diverse team of committed professionals, we achieve this by innovating, generating solutions, and sharing knowledge in collaboration with peers, clients and partners.

NIRAS has a fixed presence in 31 countries across our network of 51 office in Europe, Africa, Asia Pacic, and Latin America. Building on international experience and management of projects from more than 100 countries, we provide technical expertise and results-oriented project management in our core competence areas. NIRAS delivers tailored, innovative, value-creating, and results-driven solutions to enable our clients and partners - international development organisations, donors, governments, institutional investors, and the private sector - achieve their goals.

## Our Entrepreneurial and Ethical Values

### We are Collaborative:

We foster cooperation across offices, sectors and competences and often with partners or clients, using a team approach to delivering all our services. We share ideas and knowledge freely within and between our projects and teams.

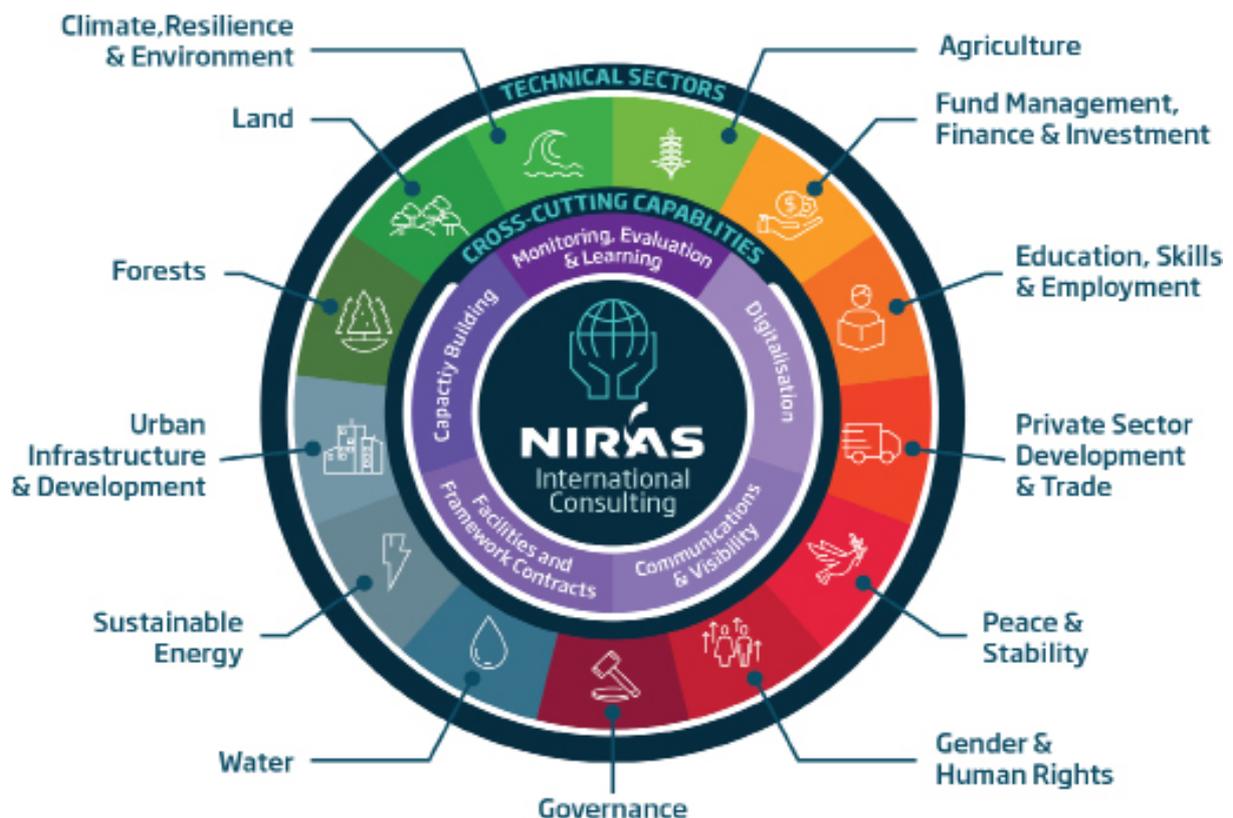
### We take Responsibility:

We uphold high ethical standards of business practice and are transparent and accountable to our clients, partners, and team mates. We take responsibility for our own development and contribute to the development of others.

We apply innovative thinking, we learn from our successes and so-called failures, adapting our approach to achieve the best possible outcomes.

### We create Value:

We are driven to achieve the best we can and to maximise the value we create for our colleagues, partners and clients. We take accountability for our own work and use our knowledge to achieve impact and stay relevant. We have a growth mindset where we see opportunities, not just challenges.





## NIRAS' presence in Nepal

NIRAS has actively been working in Nepal since the 1990s. Our first project was on rural electrification in the Far Western Region of Terai. In 2013, we opened our representative office in Kathmandu, which gives us greater implementation and recruitment capacity as well as first-hand information about a rapidly changing political environment. With this local presence, we are better able to coordinate and support the implementation of our projects and generate sustainable results benefiting Nepal's development agenda and the SDGs.

Across the NIRAS Group, we have a unique range of skills and capabilities that make us a trusted service provider for strengthening resilience, climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and inclusion in Nepal. These include:

- A deep understanding of the climate change and disaster risk management sector in Nepal given our longstanding history implementing aid programs in the sector since the early 1990s;
- A track record in implementing programs on climate adaptation for FCDO and others in Nepal and globally, which include the UK-funded Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness Programme, and the ABD-funded-Building Climate Resilience of Watersheds in Mountain Eco-Regions program.
- A local field presence in Nepal's Karnali region, through our Surkhet office, where we implement field level activities to strengthen the capacities of local municipalities and communities for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction under the Sustainable Water and Sanitation for All (SUSWA) programme.
- A deep understanding of effective approaches to building climate resilience through our extensive experience in the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning of programs on adaptation and disaster risk reduction, including Portfolio Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Unit for the UK's Nepal Resilience Portfolio.
- Extensive experience in working with national, regional and local governments for improved hydro-meteorological monitoring and the modernisation of flood forecasting and early warning systems.
- A network of international and local experts who possess an in-depth understanding of the Nepali context in light of climate and disaster-related risks.
- An in-depth understanding of FCDO requirements (through our work as LTS International prior to its merger with NIRAS), a Tier 1 FCDO supplier.

NIRAS has experience in implementing wide ranging projects in Nepal, where every project is customised to the unique Nepali context, drawing on our deep local knowledge and presence, which is why donors ranging from the FCDO, MFA, SIDA, DANIDA, and GIZ, as well as the Asian Development Bank have chosen us as their implementing partner. Our recent projects include:

### **Sustainable WASH for All (SUSWA), 2021-2025, Nepal, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA)**



Working in the geographically challenging and hard to reach municipalities of Karnali, the Sustainable WASH for All, SUSWA, project is strengthening the sustainability and climate resilience of rural WASH. By working through and with municipalities and local communities, SUSWA is supporting the establishment of efficient and transparent WASH governance at the municipal level that is capable of ensuring safe, sustainable, and inclusive WASH services and conditions for all. To achieve this, NIRAS is supporting municipalities to address core bottlenecks, whilst integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and social inclusion into their policies, plans, and operations.

### **Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness Programme (CASA), 2019-2024, Nepal, Ethiopia, Rwanda, UK Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO)**



FCDO's Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness (CASA) programme seeks to demonstrate the benefits of increased sustainable investment in agribusinesses with smallholder supply chains and enable the gainful involvement of poorer smallholders in those supply chains. NIRAS leads Component A which catalyses investment into smallholder focused agribusinesses with social and poverty reduction benefits in Nepal, Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda. The CASA project is also mainstreaming climate adaptation into its market systems approaches, with the final aim to increase resilience of smallholder farmers and partners to climate change related impacts.

### **Portfolio Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Unit for the Nepal Resilience Portfolio, 2017-2022, Nepal, UK FCDO**



NIRAS was part of the MEL Unit responsible for synthesising monitoring data and undertaking analysis to help FCDO (formerly DFID) Nepal flexibly manage its portfolio of programmes, ensuring strong value for money. The MEL Unit generated evidence through a series of evaluations of FCDO's Nepal's disaster resilience and climate smart development programmes, sharing findings and facilitating learning with a range of audiences. NIRAS supported FCDO Nepal to track progress and performance of the FCDO Delivery Partners against the Theory of Change and log frame for the two programmes as well as generate and share knowledge on disaster resilience and climate smart development to a range of audiences and stakeholders.

### **Evaluation on the EU Engagement with Civil Society in Nepal, 2022-2023, Nepal, European Union**



The overall objective of this multi year (2016-2021) country thematic evaluation is to provide an independent and reliable assessment of the EU engagement with civil society in Nepal. The evaluation assesses EU engagement with CSOs in Nepal in light of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, impact and coherence. In addition, the evaluation also assesses the EU added value and considers: (i) whether gender equality and women's empowerment, environment and adaptation to climate change have been duly mainstreamed in the different interventions and (ii) whether the relevant SDGs and their interlinkages, the principle of Leave No One Behind and a Rights-Based Approach methodology were reflected in the implementation of the different interventions.



### **Final Evaluation of “Partnership for Improved Nutrition in Nepal, 2021-2022, Nepal, European Union**

The Partnership for Improved Nutrition in Nepal (PIN) was an EU-UNICEF support project to the Multisector Nutrition Plan (MSNP). The objective of PIN was to improve maternal, infant and child nutrition so as to combat chronic malnutrition and foster socio economic development in 30 selected districts of Nepal. The main objectives of the evaluation were to provide an overall independent assessment of the past performance of the Partnership for Improved Nutrition in Nepal, paying particular attention to its results measured against its expected objectives and the reasons underpinning such results, including whether gender, environment and climate change were mainstreamed; whether the relevant SDGs and their interlinkages were identified; and whether the principle of Leave No One Behind and the rights based methodology were followed.



### **UNNATI - Promoting sustainable, inclusive growth in Nepal, 2014-2019, Nepal, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)**

UNNATI was an integrated rural development program, including private sector support, value chain development, construction of roads, access to finance, advocacy and private public dialogue. Targeting seven districts in the eastern region, UNNATI focused on the agriculture sector to create jobs for about 80% of the population and has significant potential for growth if bottlenecks such as lack of upgraded roads and access to finance can be addressed. NIRAS developed and implemented the Monitoring and Result Measurement (MRM) system for ministries and implementing partners and supported coordination, planning, monitoring and reporting. From April 2016, NIRAS’ role was expanded to coordinate the entire project “UNNATI” and represent the Danish Embassy at national coordinating meetings.



### **Building Climate Resilience of Watersheds in Mountain Eco-Regions, 2012-2014, Nepal, Asian Development Bank**

NIRAS led the implementation of the project preparation Technical Assistance Facility for the ADB aimed towards building the climate resilience of watersheds in mountain eco-regions in Nepal. The services included reviews of a) watershed management strategies and approaches in water scarce watersheds in other countries to determine their effectiveness and suitability for Nepal’s diverse watersheds; b) methodologies currently applied to determine the methodology to be applied including expected climate change impacts; c) recently implemented watershed management interventions; and d) current design criteria for commonly used small scale watershed infrastructure against projected CC impacts with proposed design revisions where necessary. The water management plans identify the mix of watershed interventions and essential supporting services to enhance the productivity of water within the watershed taking into account ongoing and planned development projects. Assessment of institutional arrangements, governance and capacity related to watershed management.



### **Technical Assistance for Competence-Based Soft Skill Development in School, 2016 - 2019, Nepal, MFA Finland**

The TASS program aimed to improve the quality and relevance of primary and secondary education in Nepal. It focused on supporting effective implementation of competency-based curricula and teaching of soft skills. It also supported related institutional capacity building at central and district level as well as related teacher professional development in 80 pilot schools.

## Evaluation of the support to the peace process in Nepal, 2006-2011, 2012, Nepal, DANIDA

The purpose of the assignment is to contribute to a comprehensive overview of the international support to the Nepal peace process, and thus to contribute to the continued improvement of the process in relation to future support from Denmark, as well as other donors. On a more general level, the TOR clearly spell out that the evaluation should also contribute to continued learning in relation to support to peace process and peace building efforts.

## Bagmati Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Phase II (BIWMP), 1998-2007, Nepal, Natural Resources International Park House

The objective of the Programme was to improve the watershed management systems within 21 selected sub-watersheds of the Bagmati catchment in order to promote increased productivity and improve the livelihood's of the local people. The services rendered by NIRAS include assistance to the implementation of the studies of Chandaragiri hills forest and Phulchoki biodiversity project. The purpose of these studies was to prepare a project memorandum and financial proposals for the two projects. If funding proposals are agreed the implementation of the projects will be added to the responsibilities of the BIWMP.



# NIRAS' work on climate adaptation and disaster risk management

NIRAS provides a broad range of disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) services to clients and partners as mentioned below. These services have been delivered at different scopes and scales, and in countries across four continents. The company has accumulated significant experience in these DRM and CCA services areas; implementing over 110 long- and short-term assignments between 2010 and 2023, for over 60 different clients and funding agencies. NIRAS has moreover conducted these assignments at local, national, and international levels and in partnership with diverse public, private, and non-government agencies. We are therefore able to incorporate a range of lessons learned into current and future assignments.

## Our service areas for DRM and CCA include:

- **Institutional consultancy and advisory services:**  
Policy analysis and formulation, strategy development, coordination mechanisms, operational processes;
- **Programme and fund management services:**  
Project(s) assessment, selection, design, planning, implementation frameworks, supervision;
- **Programme monitoring and evaluation services:**  
Appraisal, monitoring, evaluation, review, learning
- **Training, capacity development, and awareness services:**  
Training (needs assessment, design, learning material, facilitation, course management, field trips, training of trainers), awareness, knowledge management, communications;
- **Infrastructure consultancy services:**  
Design, planning, construction supervision;
- **Other services:**  
Risk assessment and management services (vulnerability, hazard, capacity assessments, risk mapping, impact analysis); strengthening hydrometeorological and early warning systems.



### **Climate Just Communities, 2023-2026, Zambia, Scottish Government**

NIRAS is implementing the Climate Just Communities programme in Zambia, which aims to deliver climate justice interventions that tackle inequalities exacerbated by climate change and build communities resilience to the material and social impacts of climate change in Zambia. Through participatory approaches that work with local communities in climate vulnerable areas, NIRAS is developing and delivering interventions that build inclusive and climate resilient communities by empowering the most marginalised communities to take action in building resilience to the material and social impacts of climate change, enable communities to advocate for climate justice, and create long-term sustainable change.

### **Service Provider to provide technical assistance to the SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme, 2013-2017, Africa, DFID**

The £35 million Climate Smart Programme – Scaling-up Climate Smart Agriculture in Eastern and Southern Africa aimed to improved knowledge, policies and longer-term incentives drive increased uptake of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) in COMESA- EAC-SADC member states. NIRAS provided technical and project management services to assist SADC RVAA PMU to manage and implement DFID's support to SADC RVAA Strategy which enhanced regional and national response to climate change, poverty and livelihood vulnerability.

### **Technical and Managerial support for Strengthening Climate Resilience Systems for Sustainable Delivery, 2021-2024, Ethiopia, FCDO**

Funded by the FCDO, this programme strengthens the management of 30 rural multi-village water supply schemes. TAP provides support across five thematic areas; strengthening delivery systems of Climate Resilient (CR) WaSH services, transforming them into self-sustained delivery models, which includes the development of Climate Resilient Water Safety Plans; establishing women and youth led systems for post construction maintenance management and spare part supply, formulating a national WaSH Financing Strategy with emphasis on domestic resource mobilisation, and piloting innovative private sector supplies with emphasis on effective Menstrual Hygiene Management products at targeted programme schools.

### **EU Support Facility for Global Climate Change Alliance+, 2015-2021, Global, European Union**

The overall objective of the project is to foster dialogue and cooperation on climate change among the EU and developing countries most vulnerable to climate change and help ensuring that these countries increase their capacities to adapt to the effects of climate change and, where it benefits their poverty reduction objectives, participate in the global climate change mitigation effort. NIRAS provided technical support to the European Commission and partner countries for the effective implementation of the GCCA+ Flagship Initiative by building the capacities of least developing countries most vulnerable to address climate change adaptation

and mitigation, and integrating climate change and disaster risk management into development planning, budgeting and monitoring processes.

### **Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment of Cambodian Secondary Cities Project, 2019-2020, AFD, Cambodia**

In Cambodia, the four secondary cities of Battambang, Kampot, Kratie and Chhlong are exposed to hydrometeorological hazards which affect vulnerable communities resulting in a higher disaster risk. In 2019-2020 on behalf of AFD, in the assignment "Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment of Cambodian Secondary Cities Project", NIRAS conducted vulnerability and risk assessments in each of the four cities as part of a feasibility study. Based on the assessments and partner consultations, the teams proposed adaptation and risk reduction options by using an urban Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) approach.

### **Productive Safety Net Programme & Household Asset Building Programme: Climate Smart Initiative, 2012-2013 and 2017, World Bank, Ethiopia**

The Climate Smart Initiative (CSI) sought to strengthen two important food security programmes in Ethiopia the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) and the Household Asset Building Programme (HABP). The assignment, led by NIRAS, was to produce analysis and design documents in relation to the ~\$10 million CSI and the ~\$2 billion+ PSNP4. This included documenting how the CSI could strengthen its contribution to climate resilience, enhance information flow and local decision making, leverage climate funding and inform future programmes. NIRAS developed a roadmap for how PSNP (Africa's largest social protection programme) may be transformed into an instrument that adapts to and manages climate risks, based on existing programme experiences, from both within and outside PSNP/HABP, and new thinking on how to build resilience to climate by making safety nets climate smart.

### **Malawi: Malawi: Knowledge, Policy and Implementation Support Manager of the Building Resilience and adapting to climate change in Malawi, DFID, 2020-2023.**

The UK is investing up to £90.65 million over five years (2018-2023) in the 'Building Resilience and Adapting to Climate Change' (BRACC) programme. The long-term impact of the programme is to contribute to a reduction in extreme poverty and end the recurrent cycle of hunger and humanitarian assistance in Malawi. We work in partnership with the Overseas Development Institute, and two local-based partners the Centre for Development Management and Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy to: 1. improve knowledge and understanding of poverty, vulnerability and climate risk for all stakeholders in Malawi; 2. provide demand-driven technical assistance and innovation support; and 3. deliver timely research and evaluation(s) to generate lessons on what does and does not work and why. Our impact evaluation work includes the use of a large-scale randomised controlled experiment covering four districts. The evaluation team will also use cutting-edge framed-field experiments to understand the mechanisms linking activities to impacts.



**Second Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project (SRWSSP) Capacity development to support new initiatives on climate change adaptation and disaster risk management into RWSS for the SRWSSP, 2017-2019, Cambodia, ADB**

The Second Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project aimed to improve access to water supply for 377,000 rural residents and sanitation for 290,000 rural residents in 400 villages in 40 communes in 16 districts of six provinces. Recognizing Cambodia's susceptibility to climate change and natural disasters, the TA developed a new and comprehensive capacity development program for the RWSS sector, moving away from traditional RWSS and water, sanitation, and health (WASH) initiatives to develop the more holistic approach required for future more sustainable development. The TA was implemented over 24 months and supported the progressive mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management into RWSS.

**TRTA Climate Adaptive Integrated Flood Risk Management (CAIFRM) Project, 2020-2022, Vietnam, ADB**

The CAIFRM Project supported the government of Vietnam's implementation of the flood risk management (FRM) plans for the Red-Thai Binh River and the Ma River through strengthening the operations and maintenance of effective and sustainable Flood Risk Management (FRM) systems. NIRAS provided technical assistance to improve institutional and planning capacities for FRM by updating FRM plans with appropriate options for physical and non-physical measures and strengthening the coordination center of the Viet Nam National Disaster Management

Authority (VNDMA) to support efficient coordination of the Central Steering Committee on Natural Disaster Management (CSCNDM) for natural disaster responses and mitigations. NIRAS also supported the rehabilitation and upgrading of dike systems to meet flood protection levels and the modernisation of flood forecasting and early warning systems, which involved increasing the number of hydrological and meteorological stations in river basins as well as automating the recording and monitoring of necessary field data.

**Ayeyarwady Integrated River Basin Management Project. System Integrator Consulting Services for Hydromet Observation and Information System Modernization, 2017-2020, World Bank**

NIRAS supported component 2 of the Ayeyarwady Integrated River Basin Management (AIRBM) Project, with the objective to improve the quality of weather, climate and hydrological information and services in Myanmar. NIRAS provided comprehensive assistance and services to DMH for the modernization of their operations and services to improve the quality of their information products and services. The priority activities were to ensure the integration of various project subcomponents and activities into a unified observing, weather, climate and hydrological forecasting and delivery system; developing a detailed technical design of the modernized systems, preparation of an implementation plan and technical specifications and tender documents for equipment and services; and providing implementation support for DMH team and building their capacity for effective functioning of this system.



### **Integrated Flood Risk Management in 13 Districts affected by 2015 Floods in Malawi, Malawi, Ministry of Finance, 2017-2018**

In the assignment “Integrated Flood Risk Management in 13 Districts affected by 2015 Floods in Malawi”, NIRAS delivered technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance, Malawi, (World Bank) for the implementation of the ‘Malawi Flood Emergency Recovery Project’. The project was an initiative in response to the damages and losses that Malawi experienced as a result of heavy rains and subsequent floods that occurred during the 2014-2015 agricultural season. NIRAS’ assistance focused on integrated flood mitigation interventions including restoration of Early Warning Systems for districts affected by the floods.

### **Technical Assistance to the Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) in strengthening the institutional capacity and improving the disaster and emergency management system, 2016-2018, Turkey, European Union**

Turkey is hazard-prone to a whole series of disasters originated from natural, man-made or result from an inter-action between these two types. To improve disaster resilience, NIRAS provided technical assistance to Turkey’s Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency or AFAD, with specific objectives to: strength-ening institutional capacity on beneficiary institution - AFAD (at the central and local level), as well as and other relevant authorities, on disaster

(natural and man-made) and emergency management issues; improving disaster and emergency management system in Turkey; increasing coordination and enhanced cooperation with relevant public private institutions and civil society active in Turkey; and increasing institutional (AFAD and other relevant authorities in Turkey, including public, private institutions and CSOs) awareness on disaster management and emergency issues.

**Integrated Urban Environmental Management in the Tonle Sap Basin Project, 2016- 2022, Cambodia, ADB**

NIRAS led the implementation of a program aimed towards improving enhanced climate change resilience (flood and erosion protection) and urban services in Kampong Chhnang and Pursat municipalities through urban area environmental improvements; community mobilization and environmental improvements; strengthening sector coordination and capacity for project implementation, and operation and maintenance for urban services in Kampong Chhnang and Pursat municipalities focused on physical and non-physical infrastructures. NIRAS provided assistance to the PMU and supporting USUs, and MPWT, provincial departments and municipalities. Key objectives of the assistance were to provide engineering services–detailed engineering design, contract tendering, and construction supervision–for project implementation, to provide project implementation and management support, including safeguards, procurement, and monitoring and to develop the capacity of the PMU staff to effectively manage project execution climate resilience monitoring; gender mainstreaming; community development, and with PIUs’ staff, implementation.

**Integrated Flood Risk Management in 13 Districts affected by 2015 Floods in Malawi, Malawi, Ministry of Finance, 2017-2018**

In the assignment “Integrated Flood Risk Management in 13 Districts affected by 2015 Floods in Malawi”, NIRAS delivered technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance, Malawi, (World Bank) for the implementation of the ‘Malawi Flood Emergency Recovery Project’. The project was an initiative in response to the damages and losses that Malawi experienced as a result of heavy rains and subsequent floods that occurred during the 2014- 2015 agricultural season. NIRAS’ assistance focused on integrated flood mitigation interventions including restoration of Early Warning Systems for districts affected by the floods. Implemented between 2017 and 2018, NIRAS conducted (i) assessment of the flooding problems within the 13 specified districts; (ii) preparation of a set of priority flood risk management interventions (investment projects) for funding, based on thorough analysis of available information, as well as comprehensive stakeholder consultation; (iii) undertaking environmental and social impact assessment; (iv) preparation of detailed designs and tender documents for the agreed interventions; and (iv) build capacity of the stakeholders that will be responsible for the implementation and ongoing operation and maintenance of the interventions.

**Learning Programme: Disaster Risk Reduction, 2017-2018/2020-2021, DANIDA, Denmark**

NIRAS organised a learning programme to enable the participants and the participant’s organisation to further plan and take action to curb climate change and to institute a culture which drive change, action and learning. The learning programme helped participants to communicate the present status of and background for climate change (i.e. climate change baseline), outline likely future scenarios based on different projections of greenhouse gas emissions.

**Mozambique: Reducing the Risk of Susceptibility to Disasters by Means of Improved Weather Forecast Capacity: INGC National Disaster Management Institute; INAM National Meteorology Institute: 2009-2010**

With the support of the European Union, the Mozambican and the German meteorological service jointly built a rain radar – as a test - in two provinces after the great flood disaster in the year 2000. The data are not yet part of the Mozambican weather forecasts and are not yet used for the reduction of the danger of flooding during the rainy season either. Within the framework of the project, the meteorological services build regional, numerical weather stations which make use of the existing rain radars. Complementary, the consultant coordinates and integrates the improved flood forecasts into the information structure of the emergency coordination centre CENOE and the local flood warning systems. With the help of consulting services and further education, the results of the improved weather forecasts are integrated into the existing system of the CENOE emergency coordination and into the national disaster forecast and management system.

**Mozambique: Community Based Flood Warning System at Rio Save, phase 1 and 2: National Institute of Disaster Management: 2007-2012.**

The German Technical Cooperation with the support of the Munich Re Foundation has successfully tested and implemented a flood warning system at the river Buzi during the rainy season in the autumn of 2005 and 2006. The successful project goes into the second round with IP Consult responsible for the overall management. The second phase entails installing the warning system on the river Save. Proof of replicability is an essential prerequisite to showing that early-warning systems geared to the people at risk will also work successfully in other risk areas.



# NIRAS' work in climate policy and finance'

## Mobilising Finance for Forests (MFF) - Technical Assistance Facility "Advisory Services for Replication and Scaling of MFF investments" (Component 1), 2022-2026, Indonesia, BEIS

The Mobilising Finance for Forests (MFF) programme is a climate mitigation programme, funded by the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), with a total budget of up to GBP 150 million. These funds are managed by FMO, the Dutch development bank, and form part of their Forestry Investment Team's balance sheet. NIRAS manages the MFF Technical Assistance Facility - "Advisory Services for Replication and Scaling" (Component 1), which offers Technical Assistance (TA) to its investees, in order to both provide capital and the expertise to deploy it in the best possible manner. For MFF, this is a way to "de-risk" their investments by making them more likely to succeed..

## Enhancing Direct Access to Adaptation Funding in Kenya, 2015-2016, Kenya, CDKN

NIRAS (formally LTS) provided technical support to the Government of Kenya (GoK) to develop an investment grade adaptation pipeline, project concept notes and proposals for submission to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). In line with this NIRAS supported the GoK to develop an investment-grade adaptation pipeline, develop 2-3 project concept notes and 1-2 full proposals. In addition, NIRAS built the capacities and enhanced the skills of the relevant GoK officials to write funding proposals, monitor and evaluate GCF projects, as well as developed an M&E framework and tools for monitoring, evaluating and reporting programme and project outcomes as well as support lesson learning and knowledge sharing related to climate finance.

## Technical assistance for climate action support to the Caribbean Development Bank, 2014-2018, European Investment Bank

NIRAS provided technical support to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to develop its climate action and ensure the timely and effective disbursement of the Climate Action Line of Credit (CALC, a credit line of 65 million USD). The programme included technical capacity building activities, development of e-learning, and preparation of policy and processes for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation actions at CDB; capacity building in CDB's borrowing member countries (BMCs) in the design and implementation of climate resilience work, and improvement of funding flow from the CALC to eligible BMC projects. The work involved development of " Guidelines for conducting climate risk and vulnerability assessments for staff of the Caribbean Development Bank - A Step-by-Step Guide" and "Community Climate Vulnerability Assessment: A toolkit for CDB Projects".

## Management of the Darwin Initiative and Overseas Territories Climate Fund, 2003-2025, Global, DEFRA

Since 2003, NIRAS has been contracted by the UK Defra to support the "Management of the Darwin Initiative and Overseas Territories Climate Fund." The fund provides £7-millionworth of funds per annum to projects focused on biodiversity preservation, climate adaptation, environmental conservation and nature based solutions carried out in partnership between UK institutions and developing countries, Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom, and countries whose economies are in transition. Our services include management (applications process, financial administration of all projects, project management support services including secretariat functions) and delivery of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) programme. Since 1993, the initiative has awarded £140 million to approximately 1,055 projects in over 159 countries. NIRAS has provided hands-on technical support and field evaluations in a range of geographies and technical specialisations, including protected areas in Uganda, sustainable livelihoods and forest conservation in Cambodia, and ivory consumption reduction in China.

## Carbon Market Access for rural smallholders, 2020-2021, Africa, OneAcre Fund

Through the "Carbon Market Access for Rural Smallholders" project, NIRAS was commissioned to assess opportunities for OAF to engage with the carbon market on behalf of smallholder farmers. Since 2006, OAF has been providing an innovative "market bundle" credit and repayment model to support smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa (and more recently India) to improve productivity, strengthen climate change resilience and escape from poverty. Many of OAF's interventions have the potential to sequester significant amounts of carbon, which represents a valuable opportunity to generate a new revenue stream for farmers and increase OAF operational sustainability. The project therefore sought to understand whether OAF's decentralised smallholder farm production model was an appropriate fit for carbon market structures.



# NIRAS' work in monitoring, evaluation, and learning

To date, NIRAS has undertaken over 400 monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) related assignments worldwide. These have occurred at multiple levels - global policy, programmatic, and field projects - making sense of complex ongoing processes to ensure that evaluative evidence can support learning to improve performance, impact and more efficient use of aid resources. NIRAS has carried out evaluations for the EU, FCDO, Defra, AFD, Sida, BEIS, and other government departments, as well as bilateral and multilateral donor agencies internationally, NGOs, philanthropic foundations and other private sector clients worldwide.

## Independent Learning and Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the UK's Support to Climate Vulnerable Country Negotiating Groups in International Climate Negotiations, 2023-2025, Global, BEIS

NIRAS has been contracted by BEIS to undertake and independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the UK's long-term support (2011-2022) to climate vulnerable country negotiators in achieving a fairer, more inclusive negotiations process that enables the meaningful participation of climate vulnerable country negotiators. Specially, the evaluation aims to understand the effectiveness of the design and delivery of CASA phase two (from 2022-2025) against its intended outputs and outcomes, as the UK's current technical assistance programme for climate vulnerable country negotiating groups; and inform the evolution of CASA and thinking on the future of the UK's support to climate vulnerable country negotiating groups.

## Enhancing community Resilience Programme: M&E Services, 2011-2017, Malawi, DFID

The £18 million Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP), funded jointly by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), Irish Aid and the Norwegian Embassy, aims to contribute to a reduction in extreme poverty and hunger in Malawi through five linked components: 1) local empowerment, 2) improved and resilient livelihoods, 3) improved coordination and information flow, 4) enhanced early warning response, and 5) informed policy. Activities are undertaken in 11 districts in Malawi and implemented by two consortia of non-governmental organisations (the Discover consortium and the Christian Aid ECRP consortium) in addition to support to the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC). It aims to support to 1.2 million people in vulnerable communities to manage, cope with and recover from the impact of both current and future changes in weather patterns.

## Development of a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Approach for the WISER Programme, 2016-2017, UK Metrological Office

LTS developed a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) approach for the DFID funded Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER programme). The 35million pound WISER programme aims to empower local communities and regional decision-makers through a better understanding of weather and climate. Operating across East Africa, the programme funds a range of activities from strengthening climate information part-nerships to enhancing national climate services. The programme partners include the UK Met Office and the Africa climate Policy Centre based in Ethiopia. NIRAS developed a robust MEL framework for WISER that can effectively be implemented and ensure good evidence to learning can be generated in the long term about the programme as a whole and its various sub-components.



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