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# Supporting the Development of Climate Positive Projects in Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa

## *How-to Guide*

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## 1. Introduction to climate-positive projects in agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

Climate positive projects in agriculture play a crucial role in addressing climate change, livelihood, and fostering sustainable development. This document provides guidance to USAID Missions looking to support various stakeholders in developing climate positive projects.

Key partners in climate positive projects include private sector stakeholders (financial institutions, technology developers, training institutions, agriculture production groups, project developers) and public sector stakeholders (relevant government ministries and central banks) who would need to be involved in project development.

## 2. What qualifies as climate positive projects in agriculture?

Climate positive projects in agriculture aim to support sustainable practices, which are designed to either mitigate or adapt to the effects of climate change [while ensuring food security](#).<sup>1</sup>

The following sectors, areas, and activities may be considered as suitable climate positive projects in agriculture. Note, this list is representative and is not exhaustive.

Agriculture activity	Description
<b>Climate-smart agriculture (CSA)</b>	<p>CSA is an integrated approach to managing landscapes (including cropland, livestock, forests, and fisheries) that focuses on boosting productivity, enhancing resilience, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. CSA practices include agroforestry, conservation agriculture, and <a href="#">improved livestock management</a>.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>CSA projects and approaches guide actions to transform agri-food systems toward green and climate resilient practices and supports reaching internationally agreed goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.</p> <p><b>Case study:</b> <a href="#">The Rainforest Alliance</a> Productive Landscapes project in Ghana, which focuses on training and capacity building for climate-smart agriculture in cocoa.</p>
<b>Sustainable land management (SLM)</b>	<p>Sustainable land management (SLM) is an approach to managing land resources that seeks to balance economic, social, and environmental considerations to meet the needs of present and future generations. SLM involves using mechanisms and technologies that maintain and enhance land productivity capacity, while protecting or improving natural resources. Investments in sustainable land management include promotion of practices such as soil conservation, reforestation, and afforestation.<sup>3</sup></p> <p><b>Case study:</b> <a href="#">Agroforestry Extension Project (MAFE) in Malawi</a>.</p>
<b>Water management</b>	<p>Due to growth of populations around the world coupled with climate change, there is increased competition for water resources especially in rural areas in sub-Saharan Africa. <a href="#">Climate-resilient water management systems</a>, includes efficient irrigation techniques, rainwater harvesting, and water storage infrastructure.<sup>3</sup> The ability to improve water management in agriculture is typically constrained by institutional and policy inadequacies that can be resolved through multi-stakeholder partnerships that enable re-allocation and conservation of water resources.</p> <p><b>Case Study:</b> <a href="#">USAID Resilient Waters Program</a></p>

<sup>1</sup> World Bank, Making climate finance work in agriculture, [link](#)

<sup>2</sup> World Bank, Climate-smart agriculture, [link](#)

<sup>3</sup> World Bank, Climate smart agriculture investment plans: Bringing CSA to life, [link](#)

Agriculture activity	Description
<b>Crop diversification</b>	<p>Crop diversification is the cultivation and production of more than one crop within the same area and can be achieved by adding new crop species or varieties or changing the cropping system in use. It can also be conducted to replace low-value food commodities with high value products.</p> <p>Promoting diverse cropping systems can enhance resilience to climate change impacts by reducing vulnerability to pests, diseases, and <a href="#">extreme weather events</a>.<sup>3</sup></p> <p><b>Case Study:</b> <a href="#">Agricultural Diversification Activity</a></p>
<b>Research and development</b>	<p>Investments in agricultural research and development that can lead to the development of climate-resilient crop varieties, improved farming techniques, and <a href="#">innovative solutions for sustainable agriculture</a>.<sup>3</sup> Projects conducting research and development for agriculture may seek to develop new crop and animal species to enhance the resilience of agriculture ecosystems in the face of the negative effects of climate change.</p> <p><b>Case Study:</b> <a href="#">Kenya Maize Development Program II</a></p>
<b>Capacity building</b>	<p>These are projects and activities that are implemented to raise awareness of responsible farming practices and facilitate the adoption of these production practices through the transfer and strengthening of skills, knowledge and technologies to smallholder farmers, farmer groups and communities. Investments in these activities support to further enhance the capacity of smallholder farmers through training programs and knowledge sharing initiatives that help them adopt <a href="#">climate-smart practices effectively</a>.<sup>1</sup></p> <p><b>Case Study:</b> <a href="#">Capacity Building in Agriculture Activity</a></p>

*Note: The suitability of specific sectors/areas/activities as climate investments may vary depending on local contexts and priorities. Governments, international organizations, and financial institutions play a crucial role in identifying priority areas for climate finance in agriculture.*

### 3. Case Studies

Climate programs, projects, and initiatives are actions and activities geared toward avoiding emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, removal of unavoidable emissions from the atmosphere while simultaneously protecting biodiversity, improving sustainable management of natural resources, and enhancing the livelihoods of local communities involved.

Climate-positive projects within agriculture focus on one or more of these actions within one or more agricultural value chains to support improvement of natural resource management, food security, and livelihoods and increase the resilience of agricultural value chains. The following program and project case studies have been selected because they meet one or more of the criteria for an agriculture climate project implemented in sub-Saharan Africa.

#### 3.1 [Acorn Rabobank](#)

Through the Acorn Cooperative Carbon Finance Fund, USAID works to de-risk private investments into Acorn Rabobank's carbon finance fund, creating an inclusive voluntary carbon market that helps smallholder farmers in Eastern and Southern Africa with their transition from traditional agriculture practices to climate-smart and resilient agriculture.

#### 3.2 [The Rainforest Alliance](#)

From 2015-2019, the Rainforest Alliance implemented a project to promote the adoption of climate smart agriculture practices for cocoa farmers in Ghana, one of the world's leading cocoa producing countries. The project was implemented by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, Root Capital, and the Sustainable Food Lab. The training materials provided under the program enabled

farmers and other actors in the cocoa supply chain to make informed decisions about how to build resilience at farm level.

### [3.3 Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project \(NRT\)](#)

The project focuses on community-based conservation and sustainable natural resource management in the northern rangelands of Kenya. This is a soil carbon project that advances carbon sequestration and mitigation through innovative strategies encompassing sustainable rangeland management, agroforestry, and community conservancies via collaboration with pastoralist communities, and extensive stakeholder engagement. Through this project, the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) has enabled the community to access \$32 million in carbon credit revenue for the development of 43 sustainable community-owned conservancies in Kenya.

### [3.4 The Agroforestry Extension Project \(MAFE\)](#)

The MAFE project worked with more than 20,000 farmers on 4,200 hectares of land to enhance the adoption of various agroforestry practices in Malawi. The project enlisted a participatory approach in which farmers formed associations and employed a training of trainers model to enable sustainability of project outcomes. The results of the project were improved land yields for maize production and less dependency of farmers on inorganic fertilizers with increased food security in the country.

### [3.5 The Resilient Waters Program](#)

The USAID Resilient Waters Program provides support to the development of sustainable water management systems and mechanisms in the Okavango River basin and the Limpopo River basin, which cover six countries: Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. The five-year program aims to build more resilient and water secure Southern Africa communities through increasing access to safe water for drinking sanitation and agriculture.

### [3.6 Agriculture Diversification \(AgDiv\) Activity](#)

The USAID AgDiv Activity sought to reduce poverty sustainably through the diversification of agricultural value chains in Malawi. The project included the adoption of production of high-nutrient food crops and value chains to reduce food insecurity, curb malnutrition, improve community livelihoods, and enhance the sustainability of agricultural ecosystems in the country.

### [3.7 Kenya Maize Development Program \(KMDP\) II](#)

Through the period of implementing the KMDP I & II programs, USAID supported various institutions (private and public sector) to develop and adopt the cultivation of improved varieties of maize as well as other staples such as sorghum, with the goal of reducing food insecurity, increasing the resilience of agricultural food systems in the country, and eventually improving community livelihoods and revenue generation potential.

### [3.8 Capacity Building in Agriculture Activity](#)

The activity is implemented by USAID in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture to support the government of Tanzania in improving data collection and information dissemination and to create linkages between key actors in the country's agricultural sector while developing income-generating activities for smallholder farmers. Through the activity, more than 30,000 individuals in the agriculture sector have received short-term productivity or food security training, 2,000 farmers have applied improved agriculture technologies and management practices, 7,000 hectares of land are under improved technologies and management, and 2,500 people are using climate information or implementing risk reducing actions to improve resilience in agriculture.

#### 4. What steps should be taken when developing climate positive projects?

There are three potential approaches to establishing a climate-positive project: i) as a non-commercial climate project developed within a non-climate program; ii) as a commercial business opportunity implemented within a climate-positive business; or iii) as a non-commercial climate-positive initiative that can be transformed into a revenue-generating business as part of scale-up efforts.

When setting up climate positive projects in agriculture, it is important to ensure the projects have clear climate impact objectives that are measurable over time to enable reporting on financial, livelihood, and environmental impact of the project.

A USAID Mission may support the development of climate related projects in agriculture by supporting the project development stages as indicated in the schematic below.

Project step	USAID Mission support
1) Define project goals and objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missions can provide technical assistance and advisory to help align project objectives with key country-level barriers to climate financing.</li> <li>• Missions can also provide resources and information to help set baselines for GHG emissions and the current levels of climate funding inflows.</li> </ul>
2) Identify key project interventions, actions, and resource needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missions can support project developers to develop, tailor, and refine project interventions based on the identified barriers and sub-barriers to climate finance. This will enable the development of interventions that are actionable and relevant to the local country-context.</li> <li>• TA may also be offered to support projects develop robust project-level financial analyses.</li> </ul>
3) Set key performance indicators (KPIs) and identify key success factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missions may draw from internal resources and past project experience to co-develop project relevant KPIs that are climate-specific and can be incorporated in the project planning and tracked over the course of the project lifecycle.</li> </ul>
4) Clarify stakeholder roles and partnership mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missions can support the project developer to identify and engage with key public and private sector stakeholders to ensure buy-in and create opportunities for collaboration and synergy.</li> <li>• It is critical to identify the potential impact of the project on the surrounding community. This will enable the development of efficient and effective communication strategies and generate buy-in of local communities during the implementation of the project.</li> </ul>
5) Align on key milestones and timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missions can support project developers to create project-specific roadmaps, indicating key project milestones while maintaining a focus on climate-specific achievements of the project.</li> </ul>
6) Develop implementation plans, budgets, & evaluation mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support project developers in the creation of robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to enable project progress tracking against climate relevant key performance measures.</li> </ul>
7) Conduct risk assessment and mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missions can draw on past USAID experiences and internal expertise to support projects in developing risk mitigation strategies and response actions that are tried and tested.</li> </ul>
8) Support project implementation and development of sustainable exist strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missions can support the developer through technical assistance and training to enable the development of relevant skills for project roll-out and implementation as well as conceptualizing exit strategies through encouraging local ownership of the project and support communities.</li> </ul>

*Note: Additional detail on the activities conducted by project developers at each stage of project development, are indicated in Appendix 1 of this document*

## 5. Common pitfalls in developing climate positive projects in agriculture

It is critical for project developers to consider the various pitfalls and challenges they may face when developing climate finance or climate projects in agriculture. It is essential for the project developer to understand these challenges and create response mechanisms that can mitigate any negative effects of the identified pitfalls.

Pitfall	Description	Potential Solution
<b>Inadequate funding for project start-up</b>	Climate projects may require relatively high financial investments at start-up. For example, carbon projects require an initial financing of \$100,000-\$200,000 to cover costs of start-up and registration. The high initial costs of setting up climate-related projects may discourage developers from setting up these initiatives and financiers from investing in them.	Aggregation of agriculture projects into larger more bankable projects that can attract private sector investment or pool resources to cover registration and upfront expenses.
<b>Variations in project and national objectives</b>	In certain cases, the climate project objectives may not align with national or private sector development objectives, and this might limit the amount of support received from both the public and private sector. Project developers must be careful to design projects that strike a balance between climate change response goals and national/community-level development objectives.	Co-creation of project objectives and initiatives to enable alignment between development objectives, commercial targets, and impact objectives of the project.
<b>Limited local and national ownership and buy-in</b>	Low levels of local ownership of the project may result in the project failing to scale within the communities it operates, leading to stagnation of the project and failure to achieve overall objectives. Limited local ownership and buy-in may also result in project failure at the point when the developer or financier exits operations. It is essential for projects to ensure local ownership to secure sustainability of interventions and results in the long-term.	Development of communication plans to relay project objectives and potential benefits to local communities, leadership, and public sector. This may include communication of potential revenue sharing models for initiatives such as carbon projects. Consult local leadership to ensure local ownership of results.
<b>High perceived risk of agricultural investments</b>	Development of projects in the agricultural sector may receive less interest and investment from private and public sector financiers due to the perceived/real risk of agricultural investments lower perceived/real returns. Agricultural investments may be undesirable due to the susceptibility of agriculture to climate shocks and the long return on investment period for agriculture businesses.	Create robust financial analyses and models indicating potential ROI, leveraging reliable market data, successful case studies and timelines that can be utilized to spur the confidence of potential investors in the agriculture sector.
<b>Insufficient local technical skills and capacity</b>	Climate projects may require relatively high skills and capacity for implementation and monitoring. Limited local capacity and technical skills to implement climate projects may hinder project success. This also includes limitations in technology and related mechanisms for implementation such as Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) techniques used in the appraisal of carbon projects. Project developers are also stifled by data and	Leverage knowledge exchange mechanisms and technology to support capacity building and technology transfer. This can be conducted through in-person training, digital training platforms, learning exchange visits and over mobile (apps, calls, USSD).



Pitfall	Description	Potential Solution
	information gaps that make it difficult to verify the impact of climate initiatives especially in remote or rural areas.	
<b>Inadequate infrastructure and utilities</b>	The successful implementation of climate projects requires supportive public infrastructure and utilities such as road networks, on and off-grid electricity supply, etc. Limitations in infrastructure and utilities may require public sector engagement to support project implementation especially within hard-to reach agricultural communities in sub-Saharan Africa.	Lobby government and public sector institutions to implement infrastructure and utilities development initiatives.

## 6. How to engage smallholder farmers in climate-smart projects<sup>4</sup>

The agricultural sector in sub-Saharan Africa is driven by smallholder farmers, requiring the engagement of farmers and farmer groups while developing climate-related projects that can result in holistic community benefits. The following areas of smallholder farmer engagement may be considered when developing and implementing climate positive projects in agriculture.

Engagement area	Description
<b>Understanding needs and preferences</b>	Actively involve smallholder farmers in discussions to identify their specific needs, preferences, and constraints related to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Utilize participatory methods like surveys, focus groups, and stakeholder workshops.
<b>Tailoring climate projects</b>	Develop climate projects that are customized to the local context, incorporating the existing coping strategies, adaptive capacities, and unique conditions of smallholder farmers. Consider the socio-economic, cultural, and environmental factors of smallholder farmers.
<b>Building capacity through training</b>	Enhance the knowledge, skills, and awareness of smallholder farmers regarding climate-smart agriculture practices, technologies, and the benefits of accessing climate finance. Provide targeted training, capacity building, and technical assistance.
<b>Strengthening farmer organizations</b>	Facilitate collective action, local leadership representation, and empowerment of smallholder farmers by creating platforms for information, knowledge-sharing, and best practices. Establish and reinforce farmer organizations, cooperatives, and networks.
<b>Integrating local and indigenous knowledge</b>	Recognize the value and relevance of traditional knowledge in climate change adaptation and mitigation, ensuring its integration with scientific and technical knowledge. Acknowledge and incorporate local and indigenous knowledge and practices.
<b>Decision making</b>	Include smallholder farmers, especially women and marginalized groups in all phases of climate projects, from planning and implementation to monitoring and evaluation, to ensure diverse perspectives and needs are considered. Prioritize the active involvement of smallholder farmers, especially women and marginalized groups.
<b>Policy and regulatory frameworks</b>	Support smallholder farmer aggregation into viable and investable projects through review of land tenure rights to enable communal ownership and use of land resources. Lobby local governments to revise land tenure policies.

<sup>4</sup> World Bank, Making climate finance work in Agriculture, [link](#)



## 7. Which areas can USAID Missions facilitate partnerships in agriculture?

To ensure the successful implementation of resilient and sustainable climate projects in sub-Saharan Africa, it is crucial to forge and sustain partnerships with ecosystem stakeholders in the private and public sectors. The mechanisms outlined in the table below can be used to facilitate the development of partnerships.

Partnership area	Description	Key steps
<b>Establishing multi-stakeholder platforms/forums</b>	Bring together finance providers, local communities, and other stakeholders in a platform/forum for dialogue, consultation, and collaboration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate the creation of a multi-stakeholder platform.</li> <li>• Invite relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, and private sector actors.</li> <li>• Facilitate regular meetings to encourage dialogue and collaboration.</li> </ul>
<b>Developing project steering committees</b>	A multistakeholder advisory group that helps project teams set direction, scope, goals, budgets, and timelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select representatives from various relevant stakeholder groups.</li> <li>• Convene initial and periodic progress meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>Developing a common vision, mission, and strategy (national roadmaps)</b>	Guide the formulation of a shared vision, mission, and strategy for climate finance for agriculture based on a common understanding of challenges, opportunities, and priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder consultations to understand perspectives.</li> <li>• Draft a vision, mission, and strategy document collaboratively.</li> <li>• Obtain agreement and commitment from all stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<b>Defining principles, criteria, and standards</b>	Help define the principles, criteria, and standards for climate finance aligned with national/international policies and local community needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish working groups to define principles and criteria.</li> <li>• Ensure alignment with national targets.</li> <li>• Gain consensus among stakeholders on the standards to be adopted.</li> </ul>
<b>Implementing transparent governance system</b>	Help governments establish transparent, accountable, and participatory governance system for climate finance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help develop governance guidelines and procedures.</li> <li>• Ensure representation from all stakeholder groups in decision-making bodies.</li> <li>• Help implement mechanisms for effective allocation and utilization of funds.</li> </ul>
<b>Linking climate finance with other policies</b>	Help strengthen linkages between climate finance for agriculture and other relevant policies and initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify synergies with economic and social development initiatives and policies.</li> <li>• Help establish coordination mechanisms with other relevant programs.</li> <li>• Maximize co-benefits and minimize trade-offs through strategic alignment.</li> </ul>
<b>Fostering mutual trust and understanding</b>	Promote mutual trust, respect, and understanding among stakeholders through information exchange and recognition of contributions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate information-sharing sessions among stakeholders.</li> <li>• Encourage experiences and knowledge exchange.</li> <li>• Recognize and appreciate the contributions and achievements of each stakeholder.</li> </ul>



## 8. Appendix

The table below provides activities that can be conducted by USAID country Missions to support the development and implementation of climate projects in SSA.

Project Step	Project Developer Role	USAID Mission Support
<b>Step 1: Define project goals and objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the goals and objectives of the project aligned with internal business/commercial and impact objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support through technical assistance to help align project objectives with key country-level barriers to climate financing. The Mission may also provide resources and information to help set baselines for GHG emissions and climate funding flows from local and external sources.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 2: Identify key project interventions, actions, and resource needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize the identified/prioritized barriers to develop key interventions and solutions for corresponding barriers and sub-barriers. These interventions may be further tailored to suit the local country context and ensure local nuances are considered. To identify the resourcing needs, a preliminary financial analysis should be conducted to identify cost estimates for project development, implementation, and maintenance. This will also include the exploration of various funding sources from the private and public sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support project developers to develop, tailor, and refine project interventions based on the identified barriers and sub-barriers to climate finance. This will enable the development of interventions that are actionable and relevant to the local country-context. Technical assistance may also be offered to help projects develop robust project-level financial analyses.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 3: Set key performance indicators and success metrics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop KPIs that can be used to track the progress and impact of the project. These KPIs may include a measure of the magnitude of climate financing accessed over a period, amount of private sector financing mobilized, number of project beneficiaries at community level, impact of the project on local communities' livelihood, amount of GHG emissions reduction, number of youth, women and marginalized communities supported, and amount of revenue generated from the project. These measures will be used to track project performance against set targets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draw from internal Mission resources and past project experience to co-develop project relevant performance indicators that are climate-specific and can be incorporated into project planning and tracked over the course of the project lifecycle. These KPIs should be comprehensive while maintaining a level of simplicity to enable ease of monitoring, evaluation, and learning.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 4: Clarify stakeholder roles and partnership mechanisms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is essential that stakeholder mapping is conducted to identify what stakeholders need to be engaged at every stage of the project and what engagement mechanisms can be implemented for successful partnership development. The stakeholder mapping may culminate in the identification of private and public sector stakeholders that can be engaged for purposes of policy reform, access to financing, access to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support to the project in identifying and engaging with key public and private sector stakeholders to ensure buy-in and create opportunities for collaboration and synergy.</li> <li>At this stage it is critical to identify the potential impact of the project on the surrounding community.</li> </ul>

Project Step	Project Developer Role	USAID Mission Support
	<p>agricultural inputs and markets, technical assistance, and capacity building. Partnership engagement strategies are then developed depending on the nature of the stakeholder and degree of involvement in the ecosystem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder engagement should also take into consideration community-level partnerships. Community members and local leadership should be involved in the project planning stages to ensure there is contribution with local context considered and local ownership of initiatives and results.</li> </ul>	<p>This will enable the development of efficient and effective communication strategies and generate the buy-in of local communities during project implementation.</p>
<p><b>Step 5: Align on key milestones and timelines</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The developer, alongside key project stakeholders, may develop a set of critical milestones in the lifecycle of the project from the point of inception to project closeout. These milestones may be indicated on a robust project plan/ project timeline to ensure efficient tracking of the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support project developers in the creation of project-specific roadmaps, indicating key project milestones while maintaining a focus on climate-specific achievements of the project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step 6: Develop implementation plans, budgets, and evaluation mechanisms</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop implementation plans that include key actions, processes, and steps required to make the project practical. These plans may include a breakdown of project interventions into actions and sub-tasks. These actions may be assigned timelines, budget lines, responsibility centers, and key performance indicators. The developer may utilize the developed KPIs to create monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanisms to be used throughout the lifecycle of the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support project developers in the creation of robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to enable project progress tracking against climate relevant key performance measures.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step 7: Risk assessment and mitigation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a risk assessment of the project to identify potential risks associated with project implementation and develop strategies to mitigate the identified risks. These risks may be risks associated with project operations, financing, strategy, reputation, and market dynamics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draw on past USAID Mission experiences and internal expertise to support projects in developing proven risk mitigation strategies and adjust implementation plans based on risk assessment and mitigation plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step 8: Project implementation and development of sustainable exit strategy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is critical to develop sustainable project exit strategies that entail planning for the long-term sustainability of the project beyond the funding period. The exit strategy is developed to ensure the project's benefits continue after any external support is completed. This will include transfer of project ownership to local leadership, communities, or private sector implementers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mission can provide TA and training to project staff to develop relevant skills and technology for efficient roll-out and implementation.</li> <li>The Mission can support the developer to contextualize exit strategies through encouraging local ownership of the project and support communities, or private sector implementers develop</li> </ul>

Project Step	Project Developer Role	USAID Mission Support
		the relevant capabilities to run the project after the exit of the developer.