

Project Name: B-SaFFeR

Project Title	<i>Building Socio-ecological resilience of communities to Flash Flooding in the Rwenzori Mountains (B-SaFFeR)</i>
Acronym	<i>B-SaFFeR</i>
Start Date	01 September 2024
Estimated End Date	31 August 2029
Principal Investigators	Dr. Bosco Bwambale Dr. John Sekajugo, Prof. Dr. Matthieu Kervyn
Partners	1. Mountains of the Moon University (MMU) – Uganda 2. Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) – Belgium 3. KU Leuven – Belgium 4. Join for Water (JfW) – Uganda 5. THRIVE Research and Innovations Facility (THRAIF) – Uganda
Supported by/Funder (Only indicate the funder if this is acceptable by them)	<u>VLIR UOS (Flemish Interuniversity Council)</u>
Website Link	N/A
Project description or Summary. Share some pictures if you have them	B-SaFFeR aims to enhance capacities through joint research, addressing a relevant developmental issue: the impact of flash floods on the rural population in the Rwenzori Mountains of Uganda. Despite existing local knowledge to reduce risk, there is a lack of capacity to monitor floods, enhance community response mechanisms, and design and implement sustainable risk reduction strategies. In cooperation with district authorities, B-SaFFeR will enhance academic capacities to build socio-ecological resilience against flash floods in Rwenzori communities. A low-cost sensor network will monitor rainfall and river discharge in two river catchments (Nyamwamba and Nyamugasani), complemented by a spatial hydrological model, to develop a proof of concept for a flood warning system. Existing grassroots risk-sharing socio-economic solidarity schemes (i.e., VSLAs) will be documented, and their impact on household resilience will be demonstrated. Key stakeholders will co-lead the project, which includes training and direct support for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) actions in pilot villages, as well as an environmental radio program to ensure the sustainable impact of B-SaFFeR on the resilience of local communities.

