

FGLG-South Africa

NARRATIVE REPORT 2011





**FOREST GOVERNANCE LEARNING GROUP – SOUTH AFRICA’S (FGLG-SA)
DRAFT 2011 TERM PROGRESS REPORT**

BY

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FOR

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INTRODUCTION

While the FGLG-SA 2011 implementation plan is detailed (full plan available on request – and further information in sub-sections below), Table 1 has been formulated for the purposes of reflecting and reporting on the main milestones and overall progress.

Table 1. An extract of the final draft FGLG-SA 2011 implementation plan

Activities	Anticipated impacts	Timing
1. Forest rights and small forest enterprise		
1.1 Monitor implementation of the National Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP)	Effective resource prioritization, allocation and utilisation by SMFE especially in community	2011 – 2013
1.2 Monitor implementation of the SMFE strategy	Development of support mechanism for SMFE; Effective resource prioritization, allocation and utilisation by SMFE especially in community	2011 – 2013
1.3 Provide inputs to the anticipated land reform policy review	Mainstream post-settlement support mechanisms into policy including resources, skills development and institutional capacity building	2011
1. Legitimate Forest Products		
2.1 Convene learning session on access to State and private production resource assets for NTFP based enterprises	Clarity on resource access rights for NTFP based enterprises	2011
2.2 Provide inputs onto SMFE Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) system and standard development	Security of SMFE and provision of appropriate tools	2011/2012
3. Pro-poor climate mitigation and adaptation through forestry		
3.1 Provide inputs to the National Climate Change Green Paper	Ensure that forest related issues are properly covered	February 2011
3.2 Provide inputs into development of forest sector climate change response strategy	Ensure that strategy makes provision for real pro-poor benefits	2011/2012
4. Transnational learning and preparedness		
4.1 Provide inputs to SA's position on the African Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (AFLEGT) processes	Ensure that key forest governance issues are covered and discussed; Influence decisions on AFLEGT thereof	February 2011
4.2 Draft a 'policy intelligence tool'	Present key attributes and processes for policy engagement	During 2011
4.3 Take part in FGLG international events	Contribute towards coordination and learning on forest governance issues	2011
4.4 Participate in Southern and Eastern Africa FGLG teams learning session on REDD+	Exchange lessons and build capacity to interact with similar processes in respective participating countries	3 rd or 4 th Quarter of 2011
4.5 Convene at least four FGLG-SA learning sessions on Outputs 1.3, 2.1, 3.2 and 4.1	Create platform for the Group's contact dialogue; Workshop and generate Group's inputs on key issues; Group's visioning and	During 2011

This report reflects on progress with the above-mentioned activities and deliverables, some impacts and lessons, and some relevant emerging issues.

2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

At the FGLG international event in Mozambique, December 2010, a draft 2011 implementation plan was developed and thereafter circulated to the FGLG-SA members and IIED team for comments. Based on the comments received a final draft plan reflecting the methodological framework was then tabled and endorsed at the March 10, 2011 Group's meeting. The plan then formed the basis for organising activities of the Group thereafter.

In keeping with the decision to rotate the facilitation of learning events, i.e. having an FGLG team member and/or an invitee subject expert to facilitate each event, as well as incorporating other methods like presentations, brainstorming, focused group discussion and written briefs, a learning events operational plan was drafted (see Table 2) based on the Group's 2011 implementation plan (see row 4.5 in Table 1 above).

Table 2. Learning events' operational framework

No.	Identified focal topics	Proposed dates	Nominated facilitator	Other activities	Status quo
1	Africa Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (AFLEGT) process	March 10, 2011	Mr. Motsamai Nkosi	Reporting on 2010 FGLG international event in Mozambique; Endorsing 2011 implementation plan; and Scheduling 2011 learning events.	The event was convened on March 10, 2011 as planned, and two issues were noted. First, DAFF expressed desire to consider the Group as its National Reference Group as required in the SADC FLEGT process. And secondly, while there was no draft framework – the then on coming SADC FLEGT workshop was to provide way forward.
2	Access to non-timber forest products' production resources	June 06-10, 2011	To be identified	To be identified	Initially had to be postponed to November 17, 2011 in order to conclude arrangements with the Committee on Forest Access (CFA) as the opportune partner. It subsequently didn't take place as planned owing to inconclusiveness of

					the partnership mainly due to resources.
3	Forest Sector climate change response strategy process	August 08-12, 2011	Mr. Nkosi Quvile	To be identified	Didn't take place because respective sectors' processes hadn't been initiated by respective authorities including DAFF.
4	Land Reform Policy Review	October 10-14, 2011	Mr. Jim Matsho	Progress on 2011 implementation plan; SADC FLEGT Workshop; and UNFCCC COP17	The event was convened on September 22, 2011, and see last section of Table 3 for a detailed feedback on the outcomes.

3. FOREST RIGHTS AND SMALL FOREST ENTERPRISE

All the three activities, i.e. monitoring the implementation of the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP2), the small and medium forest enterprise (SMFE) strategy and provision of inputs onto land reform policy review, were undertaken under this key focus area (KFA) within the reported period (see Table 3).

Table 3. Report framework for the forest rights and small forest enterprise

Activities	Deliverables	Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Remarks
Monitor implementation of the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP2)	Nominate a Task Team	Three member Task Team was constituted	Periodic liaison on issues relating to developments and challenges	Three members sits on the National Forestry Technical Task Team ² that is concerned with amongst others monitoring implementation of IPAP2
	Resource prioritisation for community support	Planning financial support from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), and 70 projects are being supported	Quick turnaround for issuance of water use licenses; Accelerate forestry development particularly in communities;	An environmental service provider was appointed to facilitate projects' environmental impact assessment
		Environmental impact planning support from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and 26 projects are being supported	Increase supply of raw material and value addition; Creation of sustainable job opportunities in rural areas	An environmental service providers panel has been established to fast-track the process
		US\$3 million equivalent project development support from the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), and 30 projects are being assessed		A project planning panel has been established to fast-track the process

² The National Forestry Technical Task Team is constituted by DAFF, DTI, FSA, Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative South Africa-Eastern Cape (ASGISA-EC), IDC and Department of Water Affairs.

		Grant incentive for forestry development is being conceptualised through DTI		The process is coordinated through the National Forestry Technical Task Team
	Issue media release and/or write an article	None as yet	The KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Forest Sector Forum ³ published an article in April 2011 partly reflecting on IPAP2 impacts	As quantum of supported projects grows and matures, FGLG-SA and/or through it networks will certainly publish an article (see KZN FSI Forum article attached)
Activities	Deliverables	Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Remarks
Monitor implementation of the SMFE Strategy	Nominate a Task Team	Three member Task Team was constituted	Facilitate and advance Forestry Branch's negotiation edge based on preparedness – evidence based approach though process seem to be very slow	Political approval of the Strategy within DAFF took long, and resourcing is being considered for 2012/13 financial year
	Resource prioritisation for SMFE support	Three year SMFE Skills Development Programme is being instituted by the Industry in partnership with DAFF and Fibre Processing and Manufacturing SETA		
		Negotiation underway within DAFF to incorporate forestry issues into it SME funding programmes including the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) and Mafisa		
	Issue media release and/or write an article	Not yet		
Activities	Deliverables	Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Remarks
Provide inputs to the anticipated land reform policy review	Draft policy brief for members' preparation	Provided guidelines, and structure, on land reform issues to facilitate deliberations	Empowered the Group on the land reform policy issues	Not all members of the Group are directly involved on land reform issues, and thus, the brief offered a good reference in this process
	Learning event convened	Provided platform for the Group's deliberation and sharing lessons on land reform issues using the draft Land Reform Green Paper	Advanced the Group's capacity to engage with other policy review processes in future	Event brought life to the Group's members' strong emotion on the subject
	Draft Group's policy inputs	Offered balanced views and proposals shaped by stakeholders' grouping representation of the Group		Based on follow-ups, and the Group's participation, DRDLR has

³ The KZN FSI Forum is constituted by DAFF, DTI, FSA, IDC and KZN Department of Economic Development and Tourism

		Strengthened stakeholders' submissions on the recommendations made as the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) is now implementing them		taken a practical and stakeholder approach in reviewing its policy by establishing national stakeholder working groups to deliberate on public submissions and make recommendations to the Ministry – a process welcomed by the Group.
	Make submission and representation to DRDLR	Positioned the Group as a key stakeholder on the land reform issues		
	Issue media release and/or write an article	None as yet		Group has adopted a positive media approach on this matter because of the cooperation, and now will be a perfect time to publish an article based on the DRDLR reactions

4. LEGITIMATE FOREST PRODUCTS

Out of the two originally identified activities within this key focus area, and only one of them was partly undertaken, i.e. sustainable forest management (SFM) system and standard development (item 2.2 in Table 1). Table 4 below reflects on the outcomes.

Table 4. Report framework for the legitimate forest products

Activities	Deliverables	Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Remarks
Provide inputs onto SMFE Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) system and standard development	Nominate a Task Team	Nominated SZ Ngubane to monitor and appraise the Group of the developments		Nominated member is party to both system and standard development processes – ease of monitoring.
	Draft system and/or standards inputs	System development – partnered with the Grasslands Programme (GP) to support incumbents' capacity building on fire management with GP providing necessary infrastructure	Leveraged incumbents' beneficiation	The actual system development process is dragging owing to security of funding but in the interim issues of the two incumbents' projects can be addressed – hence such focus.
		Standard development – three distinct processes, i.e. big scale plantation, SLIMF and indigenous forest, coordinated by the South African FSC Working Group. Priority during 2011 was on big scale plantation standard, and both SLIMF and indigenous were at stand-still		As this is important in the SA SMFE context, it will become the Group's future focus.

	Representation of the Group's inputs	Built a solid partnership with GP to collaborate on this activity going forward	Leverage additional resources for the activity	Symbiotic partnership that will advance the Group's objectives.
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5. PRO-POOR CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION THROUGH FORESTRY

Progress on the National Climate Change Response Green Paper 2010 as published for public comments at the end of November 2010 was covered in the previous report. Findings based on tracking specific sectors' detailed strategies, including forest, development process indicate that there are delays and reasons for such delays have not been articulated. It is also not clear when such processes are likely to be undertaken.

The Forestry and Natural Resource Management Branch of DAFF committed itself to COP 17 held in December 2011 in Durban. Prior to the Conference, the Branch had participated in a number of national and international preparatory meetings and conferences. These included the FAO Climate Smart Agriculture held in Rome, African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Mali, the DAFF National Climate Change Conference, Ministerial Climate Smart Agriculture Conference and the REDD+ Workshop on Biodiversity Safeguards. Representatives of the Branch also participated in the DAFF Cop 17 Task Team. The Branch played a significant role within the COP 17 through the co-hosting of the Forest Day 5, amongst others, on December 04, 2011 focused solely on forestry and climate change. As an awareness campaign to promote and publicise the Forest Day 5 and COP 17, the Branch has published widely in sector specific as well as broad international popular publications. The Branch has also recently got involved in the Climate Change Research and Development Steering Committee driven through the Centre for Science and Industrial Research (CSIR). It is believed that clarity on this process would be provided going into the new financial year of 2012/13.

6. TRANSNATIONAL LEARNING AND PREPAREDNESS

Three activities, i.e. deliberation on Africa Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (AFLEGT), drafting policy intelligence tool and convening identified learning events, are being reported on under this KFA (see Table 4).

Table 5. Report framework for AFLEGT, policy intelligence and learning events activities

Activities	Deliverables	Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Remarks
Provide inputs to SA's position on the AFLEGT processes	Briefing document together with AFLEGT references	Group's awareness on AFLEGT framework and processes	Sparked an undertaking that FGLG-SA will be endorsed as DAFF stakeholder group for the purpose of consulting on SADC FLEGT process	It is anticipated that such a workshop will produce a draft SADC FLEGT framework that the FGLG-SA would then provide inputs on
	Learning event convened	March 10, 2011 learning event provided members a platform to deliberate on framework and process		
		Two FGLG-SA representatives have been invited to SADC FLEGT Workshop scheduled for October 26 – 28, 2011 in Johannesburg, SA.		
	Group's inputs document	Process not there as yet		
	Submission to DAFF and monitoring	Process not there as yet		
Activities	Deliverables	Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Remarks
Draft a 'policy intelligence tool'	Literature review reference	Draft literature review is providing good basis to simplify structure of complex and interdependence influential factors – work in progress	A list of key references have been generated	Exercise is proving to be more complex than originally imagined and thinking going forward is to engage professional technical expertise on this type of field.
	Draft policy intelligence tool	Process not there as yet		
	Peer reviewed draft intelligence tool	Process not there as yet		
	Publish final draft policy tool in partnership with IIED	Process not there as yet		
Activities	Deliverables	Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Remarks
Convene at least four learning events on outputs 1.3, 2.1, 3.2 and 4.1	Learning event on output 4.1	Exposed the Group on AFLEGT framework and processes	Sparked interest from DAFF to endorse FGLG-SA as its FLEGT reference group	On-coming SADC FLEGT Workshop is critical as a departure point
	Learning event on output 1.3	Now planned for September 22, 2011		Delays inherited from the actual release of the land reform policy review paper
	Learning event on output 2.1	Now planned for November 17, 2011		Delays experienced due to the NFAC's circumstances as a partner

				in undertaking the activity
	Learning event on output 3.2	Process is currently stagnant		Respective sectors' detailed response strategy processes not as yet initiated by respective authorities including DAFF

7. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Generally, the growing passion and drive experienced during 2010 as a result of the reorientation of the approach, i.e. rotation of the facilitation of the Group's learning events, continued to fuel the Group in 2011. The fact that Group members and the Group as a whole have been invited to provide inputs to a variety of key processes, such as AFLEGT, is testament to the impact of the Group. This is not to say all is well – some members are slowly fading away either as result of their operations in the sector, busy schedules and/or perceived conflicts of interest – examples here are Mr. Msa Madlala (Ikusasa), Mr. Aubrey Nsutsha (Amahlathi) and Ms Thami Zimu (NFT) – see Annexure 1 for a list of active members. Processes are however underway to bring some of them back on board on a different basis and to recruit new members accordingly to maintain and advance the Group's profile.

There have been general delays in undertaking most of the identified Group's opportunity processes and/or activities, and this has impacted on the delivery against the 2011 implementation plan – something that should correct itself, coupled with the Group's networking and influence in the year ahead. In addition, the Group adopted a positive media approach, i.e. publicising positive and progressive articles, as part of relations management. This is due to the fact that the Group enjoys positive relationships with authorities responsible for the identified activities, and publishing something controversial may be counter-productive. This means waiting and timing publishing article as when processes unfold and something tangible has ensued not merely based on events and policy briefs' inputs. It is anticipated that a professional technical expert services will be employed going forward in order to achieve this undertaking.

ANNEXURE 1
LIST OF THE FGLG-SA ACTIVE MEMBERS

Name	Organization	Position	Member type	Telephone	Fax	Email
Steven Ngubane	FSA	Manager	Convener	033 346 0344	033 346 0399	steven@forestrysouthafrica.co.za
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