

FGLG-Uganda

Work plan 2013



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NARRATIVE WORKPLAN-2012-2013

PROJECT NAME: SOCIAL JUSTICE IN FORESTRY

FUNDING PARTNER: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (IIED)

PROJECT PERIOD: 1ST OCTOBER 2009 – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: UGANDA FOREST GOVERNANCE LEARNING GROUP (UFGLG)/ ADVOCATES COALITION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT (ACODE)

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Introduction

The Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) is an alliance of independent agencies in Africa and Asia, aiming to exchange and spread learning about enabling practical, just and sustainable approaches in forest use. The Uganda Forest Governance Learning Group is implementing a project under the theme 'social justice in forestry'. The main objective of the project is to improve forest governance, developing forest products legitimacy, and combat climate change. UFGLG is convened by the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) – a policy research and advocacy- think tank based in Kampala, Uganda. This narrative work plan covers a period of 2years-2012-2013.

FGLG Uganda

The Uganda Forest Governance Learning Group consists of a small group of opinion-formers and decision-makers exchanging learning and developing ideas on forest governance, and linking with similar groups in several other African countries and Asia. The group is made up of the following stakeholder categories: academia, media, private sector, members of parliament, and representatives of the National Forestry Authority (NFA) and Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD). It is linked to the Uganda Forestry Working Group (UFWG), which is a broader network with over five hundred members. UFWG mandated UFGLG with leadership on forest governance.

The purpose of the work in Uganda is threefold: spread learning about workable approaches to good forest governance, make measurable progress in improving sustainable local returns to livelihoods from law enforcement, private sector responsibility and enhanced local ownership and access rights; and build long term capacity to spread these improvements.

Over the last five years, UFGLG evolved and consolidated into a leading policy advocacy platform. By carrying out targeted policy studies, it fed policy processes with independent policy ideas. In particular, UFGLG was active in the campaign against degazettment of Mabira and Kalangala forests through activists' campaigns including demonstrations and legal challenges in courts of law. Other milestones include: lobbying for increased government budget support to key institutions in the natural resources sector, influencing macro policy processes particularly processes to develop the National Development Plan (NDP), the National Land Policy (NLP), and reviewing the National Forest Plan. With the support for 2012-2013, UFGLG will take forward the agenda of promoting forest governance in Uganda. Through a social justice lens, it will promote sustainable management of forests along four output areas:

Output 1: Promoting Forest Rights and Small Forest Enterprises

A1.1: Undertake a study on access to land in NFA managed forest reserves and access to such lands by communities.

This study will examine the rules governing access to land in NFA managed forest reserves, the beneficiaries of land allocations by NFA and the extent to which communities and individuals adjacent to specific forest reserves have benefitted from such allocations as stipulated under the National Forestry Policy. This study has at least -six- objectives. First, it will document in an analytical manner the allocations of land by NFA in central forest reserves. Secondly, the study will highlight whether the land access rights of adjacent communities have been addressed. Finally, the study will make recommendations on how community rights of access to protected forest reserves are secured and promoted as a measure of good forest governance.

Actions:

- Develop a concept note outlining the scope of the study
- Identify and contract a resource person(s) to undertake the study
- Undertake the study

- Convene at least 1 FGLG session to review study progress and provide input into the study.
- Produce and publish the study report to be published in the ACODE Policy Research Series.

A1.2: Support the work of the Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Natural Resources by providing information and analysis on forest rights and governance issues.

UFGLG will increase its engagement with the parliamentary committee on ENR. The objective is to ensure that the Committee becomes an important forum for addressing forestry governance issues and forest rights.

Actions:

- Convene at least 2 breakfast meetings with the committee members during the year.
- Prepare and present 2 info sheets on forestry governance and community rights.
- Support at least one learning visit of the committee to one community engaged in forestry activities.

A1.3: Undertake a comprehensive audit of the implementation of CFM agreements since the enactment of the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act.

The Forestry and Tree Planting Act was enacted in 2003. The Act provides for a fairly comprehensive legal regime for implementing the relevant provisions of the National Forestry Policy regarding Collaborative Forest Management (CFM). Under the policy, CFM is projected as a cornerstone for forestry governance providing new opportunities for engaging communities in the management of the national forestry estate as well as ensuring the communities benefit from the development of forestry resource in the country.

The objective of this study is to audit the process, progress and outcomes from the implementation of CFM in selected forest reserves across the country. The report from the study will provide basis for engaging NFA and other agencies with regard to how CFM can enhance good forest governance and optimize benefits for the communities.

Actions:

- Develop a concept note outlining the scope of the study
- Identify and contract a resource person(s) to undertake the study
- Undertake the study
- Convene at least 1 FGLG session to review study progress and provide input into the study.
- Produce and publish the study report to be published in the ACODE Policy Research Series.
- Dissemination of the study report

Output 2: Improving the legality of forest produce

A2.1: Conduct a national public hearing on the failures and challenges for forestry governance in Uganda and propose policy response options.

In spite of many years of policy, legal and institutional reforms, the crisis in the governance of Uganda's forestry sector continues to deepen. A combination of poverty, the eroding confidence in forestry governance institutions and generally breakdown in law enforcement and compliance is leading to sustained decline in Uganda's forest estate.

The national public hearing on forestry governance in Uganda has two inter-related objectives. First and most important, it will act as a civic mobilization campaign to ensure that Ugandan citizens are fully engaged in defining new policy contours in the governance of

forestry resources in the country. The public hearings and the associated publicity campaign will increase the levels of awareness among the citizens as well as local, political and opinion leaders. Secondly, the process will result into a national report of the public hearings articulating proposals on how the governance of the forestry sector can be improved.

Actions:

- Prepare a concept note for the public hearing setting out the details of the process and expected outputs.
- Constitute an independent panel of eminent persons to conduct the public hearings.
- Publicize the public hearings and the process through traditional and new media.
- Conduct at least 2 public hearings in each of the 5 regions of Uganda.
- Conduct at least 3 hearings with special interest stakeholder groups.
- Produce, publish and disseminate the report of the public hearings.

A2.2: Undertake a study on public procurement and sustainability of forest produce with particular focus on procurement of certified timber products

The public procurement process can be an essential mechanism for promoting forestry sustainability by ensuring that major public procurement processes integrate sustainability considerations. In a recent study, WWF sought to examine the scope and potential for forest certification in the country. This study identified a number of actors such as government ministries, embassies and construction companies as potential stakeholders who can invest in procuring certified timber as part of their sustainability efforts. However, it is not clear whether the current public procurement guidelines make any provisions for the procurement of certified timber. Consequently an analysis of selected procurement contracts will be undertaken to examine whether issues of forestry sustainability are considered in procurement guidelines and procedures. The objective of the study is to create a basis for engaging the Public Procurement and Disposal Authority (PPDA) to include sustainability considerations in their procurement guidelines and procedures.

Actions:

- Develop a concept note outlining the scope of the study
- Identify and contract a resource person(s) to undertake the study
- Undertake the study
- Convene at least 1 FGLG session to review study progress and provide input into the study.
- Produce and publish the study report to be published in the ACODE Policy Research Series.
- Dissemination of the study report

A2.3: State of Forestry Governance Report

As part of its efforts to monitor governance trends in the Forestry Sector, UFGLG will undertake to prepare and produce a report on the status and trends in forestry governance in Uganda. The objective of the report is to shed light on the status and trends on selected governance issues in the sector. Some of the governance issues that will be covered in the report include: land and forestry resources tenure; institutional and legal reforms; parliamentary oversight and accountability; access to justice, access to information and trends in public participation; the role of the private sector in forestry development and management; Uganda's adherence to international and regional commitments, etc.

Actions:

- Prepare a concept note for the annual forest governance report.
- Constitute an independent panel of experts of UFGLG members to prepare the report.
- Commission short issues paper to provide input into the report.
- Organize at least 3 consultations to enlist public inputs into the report.
- Produce and publish the report.

- Official and media launch of the report.
- Dissemination of the report.

A2.4: Annual Multi-stakeholder symposium on forestry governance

While there is an ever growing crisis in the governance of forestry resources in Uganda, there is clearly no forum where stakeholders often come together to reflect on the challenges and map out strategies and policy options to overcome these challenges. UFGLG will partner with CARE International in Uganda to convene annual multi-stakeholder symposium.

Actions:

- Prepare a concept note for the symposium
- Hold consultative meetings with key stakeholders to define and agree on the agenda.
- Identify and commission speakers or paper presenters.
- Convene a two days symposium
- Produce and adopt a declaration of commitments on improving forestry governance.
- Produce and publish a symposium report.
- Undertake follow up on agreed commitments from stakeholders.

A:2.5. Partner with NEMA to organize High Level Leadership Retreat on Environment and Natural Resources Governance

The lead agencies that are mandated to manage the environment and natural resources have not met for many years to deliberate on the challenges facing the sub-sector and together plan strategies to reverse the situation. The available forums like sector review meetings are organized in such a manner that does not allow free and frank deliberations. Consequently, a retreat of this nature would provide the necessary space for free and frank discussions regarding the sector. UFGLG will therefore partner with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) to convene the high level leadership retreat on natural resource governance in Uganda. The objective of the retreat is to bring together all the major actors in the sector including political leaders (ministers), legislators, policy makers, civil society, district officials, the media and the private sector to engage on a dialogue on issues of governance in the sector. The first of these symposiums will take place in 2012.

Actions:

- Develop concept note and programme for the conference
- Joint planning task group for the conference
- Resource persons, speakers and panelists
- Convene a three days retreat for leaders from government, local governments, private sector and civil society

Output 3: Monitor, publish and disseminate quarterly updates on REDD implementation of Uganda

The REDD implementation process in Uganda has been gaining momentum over the last 3 years. UFGLG members have been instrumental in the preparation of the REDD readiness proposal and continue to play a prominent role in ensuring the effective implementation of REDD activities. The purpose of this activity is to ensure that FGLG members and Ugandan citizens are properly informed of the progress in the implementation of REDD and climate change related activities in the country.

Action:

- Prepare and publish a baseline fact-sheet on the status of REDD activities.
- Produce, publish and disseminate quarterly updates to at least 1000 persons.
- Provide support in the form of information and analytical work to the Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources and the Parliamentary Forum of Climate Change.
- Organize at least 2 media events on REDD and climate change issues.

Output 4: Promoting national and transnational learning and preparedness

To promote national and transnational learning, UFGLG will convene a series of learning events in Uganda as well as attend international and regional learning events and dialogues.

Actions:

- Convene quarterly meetings of the UFGLG
- Participate in FGLG international learning events.
- Support FGLG members to participate in at least 2 Africa-wide forest governance initiatives.
- Collaborate with other institutions to organize at least 2 joint events on forestry governance during the course of the year.
- Establish and operationalized a webpage for the UFGLG on the ACODE website.

Output 5: Promote research and advocacy on ENR financing

Although the country has made progress in formulating forest related policy and legislation, implementation has remained a big problem as a result of poor sector financing. The District Forest Services which is mandated to manage local reserves and provide extension support to private forest owners and the Forest Sector Support department is responsible for policy formulation; enforcement and monitoring are both financially crippled and unable to execute their mandate. Therefore, activities aimed at influencing resource allocation to the Environment and natural resources sector are very critical.

Actions

- Analysing both the national budget and district budget allocations and producing policy briefs.
- Organising strategic advocacy meetings with selected policy makers.
- Producing info sheets and newspaper pull-outs.

Output 6: Support the development and the National Climate Change policy and climate change negotiations.

Government has embarked on formulation of the Climate Change Policy which is intended to provide strategies for managing climate change related impacts. The Uganda Forest Learning Group and civil society organisations working on ENR issues have the potential to provide input in the policy formulation process. Independent analysis will be required to provide alternative proposals. Dialogue meetings will also be useful in generating consensus on key policy issues.

ACODE/UFGL has previously taken leadership on organising civil society to participate and provide input in the climate change negotiations. It has taken lead in generating CS position on a number of issues and influencing negotiations. Both the Climate Change Policy and the outcomes of climate change negotiations have an impact on forest governance. These two processes remain relevant for UFGL participation.

Actions:

- Generating independent proposals on climate change strategies.
- Convening dialogue meetings to generate input and develop consensus on key issues.
- Participating in climate change negotiations.
- Organising COP 18 preparatory and feedback meetings.

Output 7: Support the Development of the benefit sharing policy for the Forestry Sector

The National Forest Authority is in the process of developing a Forest Benefit Sharing Policy including sharing of benefits under Collaborate Forest Management (CFM) in Uganda. This

benefit sharing policy is very important for enhancing conservation of protected areas and improving community livelihoods. This process is further a fulfilment of Uganda's commitments under the CBD in addition to earlier policy reforms which the country has been undertaking since the 1990s to date.

Development of any public policy requires public consultations and participation of the public. The 2001 National Forestry Policy and the 2003 National Forestry and Tree Planting Act require the NFA to conduct public consultations in the development of forest policy in Uganda. Consultations of the public in the development of the national policy serves to create awareness about the policy being formulated and provides an opportunity for the people who are going to be affected by the policy to input their views in the policy before it is passed.

This process will require independent analysis and consultations to generate public views that will inform the policy. There is already a request from National Forestry Authority to UFGLG to provide technical input in the development of the process.

Actions:

- Providing a counter-part professional to complete the background paper and draft policy.
- Organise a dialogue.
- Support the regional consultations.

Output 8: Provide capacity building for CBOS and NGOs, local government and forest adjacent communities to advocate for and develop local instruments that support good governance in the forestry sector

Lack of capacity undermines the effectiveness of CBOs and local NGO's work on forestry and natural resource issues to influence policy changes that support community livelihood. ACODE will undertake activities that support CBOs and local NGOs to enhance their capacity in promoting community rights of access and benefit sharing in the forestry sector. ACODE will also provide pro-bono legal services to forest adjacent communities in distress over access rights and benefit sharing and support to districts to develop and implement local legislation that can address natural resource management issues.

Actions:

- Organise at least one advocacy training meetings for local NGOs and CBOs.
- Support at least one forest/protected area adjacent community to present petition.
- Support at least one local government to implement some sections of the local legislation on forest management.