

# FGLG-Uganda

NARRATIVE REPORT 2011





**PROJECT NAME:** UGANDA FOREST GOVERNANCE LEARNING GROUP:  
SOCIAL JUSTICE IN FORESTRY

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## **Forest Governance Learning Group Narrative Report: January 2011-December 2011**

### **1.0 Introduction**

This is a narrative report for the Uganda Forest Governance Learning Group (UFGLG) for the period of January 2011 to December 2011. The 2011 activity plan provides for a number of activities that relate to research and analysis, outreach and advocacy and capacity building through learning events. The activity plan specifically provides for the following activities:

- Analyse implications of current and proposed scenarios and institutional framework for REDD implementation in Uganda
- Develop a policy briefing paper on alternative models for benefit sharing in forestry to ensure community participation and benefit
- Finalize study on illegal timber trade and initiate a public/media campaign (that also reaches rural audiences)
- Review previous studies and existing regulatory framework for charcoal burning and implications for forestry and charcoal trade
- Organize national learning events
- Participate in development of FGLG China-Africa forest Governance platform and, in particular seek opportunity to promote CSR in the oil and gas industry related to forest and biodiversity conservation in the Albertine Graben in Uganda (and bordering countries)
- Participate in FGLG international learning event

### **2.0 Research and Analysis**

#### **2.1 Participate in development of FGLG China-Africa forest Governance platform and, in particular seek opportunity to promote CSR in the oil and gas industry related to forest and biodiversity conservation in the Albertine Graben in Uganda (and bordering countries)**

2.1.1 Linking with Civil Society Coalition on Oil (CSCO) and governance platform and promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the oil and gas industry related to forest and biodiversity conservation in the Albertine Graben

ACODE in partnership with Care International in Uganda under the auspices of CSCO undertook a study in March 2011 entitled: 'Understanding Corporate Social Responsibility in Uganda's oil industry and the need for a legal and policy framework on the Corporate Social Responsibility in Uganda's oil industry'. The study reviews existing CSR policy, legal and institutional framework for CSR in Uganda's oil industry and assesses the usual CSR practices of oil companies operating in Uganda in comparison with global best practices and makes policy recommendations.

#### **2.2 Finalize study on illegal timber trade and initiate a public/media campaign**

2.2.1 ACODE/FGLG commissioned a field study on illegal timber trade. The study was carried out by one of the FGLG members and a draft report was prepared. This was a basis for newspapers articles and policy briefs. However, in the course of the field study, it was established that WWF was involved in a similar study, given the previous work by WWF, ACODE/FGLG decided to participate in this process and utilize the product for its advocacy work.

ACODE/FGLG therefore took part in the inception workshop for the regional timber trade study that took place on 24th November 2011. This study on illegal timber trade has been commissioned by the World Wide Fund for nature (WWF) eastern and southern Africa regional office in collaboration with WWF Uganda country office. The study is aimed at tackling the illegal trade in forest products within the East African region based on the belief that there is widespread trade and movement of this illegal timber from Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya and other destinations. As part of the stakeholders invited, ACODE was able to provide input to this study in order to provide a better understanding of the key drivers of the illegal timber trade and continues to participate in this process.

#### 2.2.2 Statement of illegal forest Degazettment

ACODE/FGLG revised and reviewed the final statement of illegal forestry degazettment of the Namanve forest reserve. The statement was produced and presented to the shadow minister of environment and natural resources. The issues contained in the statement were raised on the floor of parliament and the minister was invited by the committee on natural resources for explanation.

#### 2.2.3 Revision of the National Forest Plan

FGLG/ACODE was part of the workshop organised to revise the National Forest Plan 2002. This was held on the 18th March 2011. The current Uganda National Forest Plan covers the period 2002-2012. It provides for actions through which the policy is being implemented, and spells out the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in undertaking the activities and programmes in the subsector. However since its promulgation in 2002, a number of changes have taken place at the national, regional and international scenes. It is because of this that the Ministry of Water and Environment found it necessary to revise the National Forest Plan and FGLG was a part of this process.

### **2.3 Analyse implications of current and proposed scenarios and institutional framework for REDD implementation in Uganda and other climate change initiatives**

2.3.1 During this period, ACODE/FGLG continued to participate in the development of the REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP). An analysis of the R-PP was done and comments provided to the REDD working group. ACODE/FGLG was also chosen to participate in the development of the REDD consultations and participate in the strategy for REDD implementation specifically with the REDD conflict and grievances plan. A framework was provided that will be used to develop the REDD conflict and grievances plan.

2.3.2 Promoting public information in REDD related projects and other climate change initiatives

2.3.2 Promoting public information in REDD related projects and other climate change initiatives

ACODE/FGLG carried out research on the importance of sustainable forest management to combat climate change; in this regard ACODE/FGLG published an opinion piece in the daily national newspaper, **The New Vision** entitled: **'forests can combat climate change'** published on 16th November 2011. The importance of forest conservation was highlighted in this article in as far as forestry making a significant contribution to low cost global mitigation. Also, it emphasized that sustainable forest management can provide food security and stated the need for implementation of laws that provide for conservation of forests.

2.3.3. Participation in other climate change initiatives

In preparation for COP17, ACODE/FGLG in partnership with Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change (PFCC) prepared and produced a briefing paper on **‘Critical Issues And Desired COP 17 Outcomes For Uganda: A CSO/Parliamentarian Perspective’**.

## **2.4 Develop a policy briefing paper on alternative models for benefit sharing in forestry to ensure community participation and benefit**

ACODE/FGLG carried out a study on forest benefit sharing models and a draft report was produced which provides a basis for the policy briefing paper. It is anticipated that the policy brief will constitute part of the activities for 2012.

## **2.5 World Bank Study on Political Economy of ENR**

FGLG convener participated in a World Bank study on the political economy of ENR in Uganda which provided an opportunity for a wide involvement of FGLG members through consultations. The report of the study was used to inform the World Bank's most recent country assessment of Uganda's ENR sector where UFGLG/ACODE are mentioned as the lead actors on issues of forestry governance.<sup>1</sup>

## **3.0 Organize national learning events**

### **3.1.1 FGLG Meeting at ACODE**

A FGLG meeting was held at ACODE to update the members on forestry issues affecting Uganda and how FGLG can help deal with these forest governance issues. This was held on 21st April 2011.

### **3.1.2 Save Mabira Crusade Update Meeting**

FGLG organized a meeting at ACODE with the Mabira group on 19th September 2011. It was aimed at getting updates from the FGLG members who had met with the president under the 'save Mabira crusade' to express concern over the proposed Mabira forest reserve give away. The meeting also discussed scenario planning and the way forward in case the plans of giving away the forest reserve went ahead. It was decided that there was need to provide the public with information regarding Mabira so that the public does not think that the team has softened and given up on their mission.

### **3.1.3 FGLG Quarterly Meeting on Current Forestry Issues and Project Activities**

FGLG held its quarterly meeting on 21 October 2011 at ACODE. The meeting was intended to get an update on Uganda's forestry sector and the FGLG project activities. Updates were given about the Mabira forest campaign. The meeting addressed the need to consult with a consultant on REDD+ activities in Uganda so that FGLG can be able to contribute to its implementation. The issue of COP17 and who was participating was brought up including the need to participate on forest day; a side event at COP17. The FGLG work plan was looked at and discussed to see how far FGLG had achieved its activities.

### **3.1.4 Preparatory Civil Society Workshop for COP17**

In preparation for COP17, a Civil Society Preparatory Workshop organized by CAN-U (Climate Action Network Uganda) and PFCC (Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change) in partnership with ACODE/FGLG for climate change negotiations in Durban was held on 16th November 2011. The primary objective of the workshop was to inform the CAN-U delegation

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<sup>1</sup> Tumushabe, G., (2011). A Political Economy Analysis of the Environment and Natural Resource in Uganda

and other relevant stakeholders of the government's position, give them a chance to reflect on it and come up with a position. The major concerns for Uganda were; a transparent financial mechanism, the Green Fund, and Post 2012 Kyoto Protocol legal implications. ACODE/FGLG was nominated to lead the civil society delegation in Durban and was involved in preparation of this workshop by preparing the concept note, programme set up and mobilization of stakeholders like Members of Parliament and climate change unit representatives.

#### **4.0 Policy outreach and Advocacy**

##### **4.1 Consultative meeting on REDD+ and the proposal for Uganda to develop a REDD strategy**

ACODE under FGLG organised and participated in a consultative meeting that took place on 10th February 2011. The theme was, 'Consultations on the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) and the Proposal for Uganda to develop a REDD strategy'. The consultation meeting focused on community perspectives on REDD+ objectives, targets and approaches, general drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, community participation and anticipated benefits.

##### **4.2 National Consultative meeting on the development of an East African Community (EAC) climate change master plan**

The EAC secretariat in collaboration with the Ministry of East African Community Affairs and the Ministry of Water and Environment organised a two days National consultative meeting on the development of an EAC climate change master plan from 14th-15th March 2011. ACODE/FGLG participated in this meeting whose aim was to contribute to the development of a climate change master plan for the EAC.

##### **4.3 Meeting to form a technical committee to develop guidelines for integration of climate change issues in sector plans and budgets**

FGLG further took part in a meeting held on 24th March 2011 for formation of a technical committee to develop guidelines for integration of climate change issues in Uganda's sector plans and budgets. It was convened by the National Planning Authority.

##### **4.4 Seminar on improved forest governance in East Africa**

ACODE/FGLG participated in a half day seminar on improved forest governance in Eastern Africa on 15th April 2011. This seminar was organised by the Ministry of Water and Environment in collaboration with the FAO ACP-Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT).

##### **4.5 Workshop to implement the project; 'Sustainable forest management and forest certification in Uganda'**

FGLG/ACODE took part in a workshop on 15th April 2011 organised by WWF Uganda country office with support from DANIDA through WWF-Denmark implementing a preparatory phase of a project entitled 'Sustainable forest management and forest certification in Uganda'. The project aims to promote forest certification which is one of the approaches to achieving sustainable forest management. ACODE was invited to be a part of the process of establishing mechanisms and processes to ensure sustainable forest management and increased incomes from forest products.

##### **4.6 Payments for ecosystem workshop**

A Payment for Ecosystem (PES) workshop took place on 4th April 2011 and FGLG participated in the meeting. The Government of Uganda through its environmental agency, NEMA received funds to implement PES projects to enhance biodiversity conservation. A PES scheme also aims at generating additional and sustainable finance for biodiversity conservation that provides incentives to local communities for conserving biodiversity found in remaining forests on private and public lands not gazetted as forest reserves.

#### **4.7 Participatory Forestry Management De-Briefing Workshop**

UFGLG participated in a participatory forestry management de-briefing workshop which took place on 25th July 2011. This meeting was organized by FARM AFRICA which has been implementing projects on pastoral development, smallholders' development and participatory forest management in Ethiopia, Kenya, Republic of South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. ACODE was invited to participate in this meeting which was held to share the findings of the participatory forestry management in Uganda in order to seek a way forward in developing projects for implementation.

#### **4.8 Dissemination of New Revenue Sharing Guidelines under the Uganda Wildlife Act**

On 14th November 2011, FGLG members participated in a national workshop to disseminate the new revenue sharing policy guidelines organized by the Uganda Wildlife Authority. Revenue sharing is a creature of statute under the Uganda Wildlife Act Cap 200 of 2000. S.69(4) requires the Uganda Wildlife Authority to remit 20% of the gate entry fees collected from protected areas to the local government of the area surrounding the Protected area from which the fees are collected. Revenue sharing is aimed at ensuring that local communities living adjacent to these protected areas benefit from their existence, and promote sustainable management of wildlife resources. The workshop enabled ACODE/FGLG to contribute by advocating for an equitable formula for sharing of funds among the local communities and ensuring transparency and accountability from the local government.

#### **4.9 Launch of the Economic Valuation Report and Documentary about Mabira Forest Reserve**

FGLG members participated in the Launch of the Economic Valuation Report and Documentary about Mabira Forest Reserve held on 6th October 2011. Following the proposal to give away 7100 ha of Mabira central forest reserve to Mehta group of companies in 2005; Nature Uganda subsequently conducted a study whose results were published in a report, 'Economic Valuation of the Proposed Degazettment of Mabira Central Forest Reserve'. ACODE/FGLG made a presentation at this launch entitled, '***Degazettment of Mabira- Scenarios and Governance Implications***'.

#### **5.0 Participation in in-country activities**

FGLG was part of the inauguration of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG) that occurred on 22 November 2011. FGLG has a working partnership with PCLG. The Poverty and Conservation Working Group is an initiative coordinated by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). PCLG is intended to among other objectives, address the on-going divide between conservation and development practitioners and policy makers on how- and whether- to link biodiversity conservation with poverty reduction so that poverty reduction policy better reflects biodiversity concerns and conservation policy plays greater attention to issues of poverty and social justice.

## 6.0 Participation in International Events

### 6.1 Participation in FGLG meeting in London

ACODE/FGLG was part of the participants that met in London in June 2011 with other FGLG country teams.

### 6.2 Participation in COP 17 in Durban

FGLG members were part of the Ugandan delegation under civil society that represented Uganda in COP17 held in Durban from 28th November to 9th December 2011. The UK's Department for International Development provided a grant through the Climate Action Network Uganda (CAN-U) which facilitated about 18 members of civil society; 9 of which were Civil Society Organization members, 3 members of parliament from the Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change, 3 print media practitioners, 1 private sector representative and 2 members of faith based/indigenous people. ACODE was in charge of coordinating this team, and in preparing the team to travel to Durban. A report of the events, activities and outcomes from Durban is to be prepared by ACODE. Meetings will also be organized by CAN-U in partnership with ACODE/FGLG next year as feedback meetings for the relevant stakeholders and organizations in order to update them on what happened in Durban and the way forward for COP 18 which is proposed to take place in the State of Qatar and the Republic of Korea.

## 7.0 Key Forest Governance Highlights

### 7.1 Save the Mabira Crusade Team

The Uganda government planned to give away part of Mabira central forest reserve to the sugar corporation (SCOUL). In the government's defence, the project would be a prospect for new jobs and alleviate the country's chronic sugar shortages. It also claimed that the forest area at stake was degraded. FGLG was part of the team comprised of members of parliament, academia, political institutions under the 'save Mabira crusade'. The team met with the president to express their views on the proposed land use change of part of the Mabira forest reserve.

A statement on the proposed give away of Mabira; ***THE STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED GIVE AWAY OF MABIRA FOREST PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT BY THE SAVE MABIRA TEAM AT A MEETING HELD IN NTUNGAMO*** was presented to the president on 4th September by the save Mabira crusade team. The statement had arguments against the degazettment of Mabira.

After meeting the president, a press release; ***PRESS RELEASE ON THE MEETING WITH HIS EXCELLENCY YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI AND THE SAVE MABIRA TEAM HELD ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2011 AT NTUNGAMO*** was written on the outcomes of this meeting where the president pledged that the final decision would be made by parliament. The save Mabira crusade team has met to strategize for possible scenarios that the Government would use to go ahead and give away part of Mabira.

The Mabira issue is covered in the press by the following link;  
<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1230470/-/bjcqlmz/-/index.html>

### 7.2 Kitubulu Central Forest Reserve

There are reports accusing the National Forest Authority of illegally selling part of Kitubulu Central Forest Reserve in Entebbe District. These reports have been denied by the forestry



body. Other reports have surfaced that the same body has allegedly authorized the fencing off of part of the forest reserve to stop people from trespassing on the investor's newly constructed eco-tourism accommodation facilities denying the residents of Kitubulu their right to access the forest.

### **7.3 Executive Director National Forestry Authority**

For a second year in row, the Government failed to appoint a new Executive Director for the National Forestry Authority (NFA) further undermining governance in the sector. Without a substantive CEO, the NFA has been unable to execute substantive forestry programmes and to secure the integrity of the central forest estate under its custodians.

### **8.0 Relationship of UFGLG with State Authorities**

UFGLG and ACODE maintain a cordial working relationship with the state authorities and is considered a stakeholder in various Government/Ministry activities and meetings concerned with the environment and development policy making. UFGLG/ACODE is regularly invited to participate in major policy meetings organized by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), the National Forestry Authority (NFA), the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and other relevant government agencies.

### **9.0 Relationship of FGLG with Other Organizations**

ACODE continues to positively work with other organizations at all levels including the target groups. These organisations include WWF and Care International Uganda with which FGLG has worked with on numerous projects concerning the forestry and natural resources sector. Others include; the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group, the Uganda Forest Working Group, Uganda REDD+ Working Group.

### **10.0 Conclusion**

At its last meeting, UFGLG membership agreed to include more process activities in the 2012 work plan. These activities should have the value of engaging more stakeholders in the forestry governance discourse by allowing wider participation and engagement. The subsequent work plans will therefore reflect those activities which can be implemented on a continuous and rolling basis.