

What it is and how it works

An informal alliance of in-country teams and international partners, currently active in seven African and three Asian countries, facilitated by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

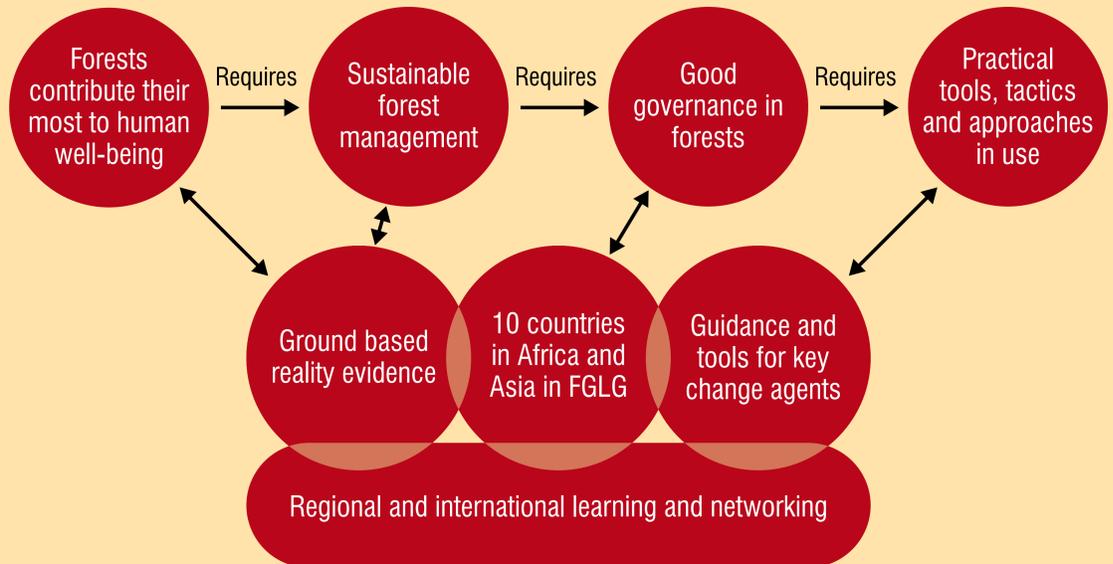
Aims to connect those marginalised from forest governance to those controlling it, and to help policy makers make better policies, doers do better and rights-holders gain more.

Inception phase started in 2003. Supported since 2005 by the EC and the Dutch government.

Action in each country

- Team of 'governance-connected' individuals from a mix of agencies
- Policy work on forest livelihood problems that are caused by people being excluded from decisions
- Development of practical guidance and tools for progress
- Creating and taking opportunities for improved governance

Inter-country work for creative transfers of insight, and to install findings in international policy processes.



Rationale and approach of the Forest Governance Learning Group



Organisational structure of FGLG

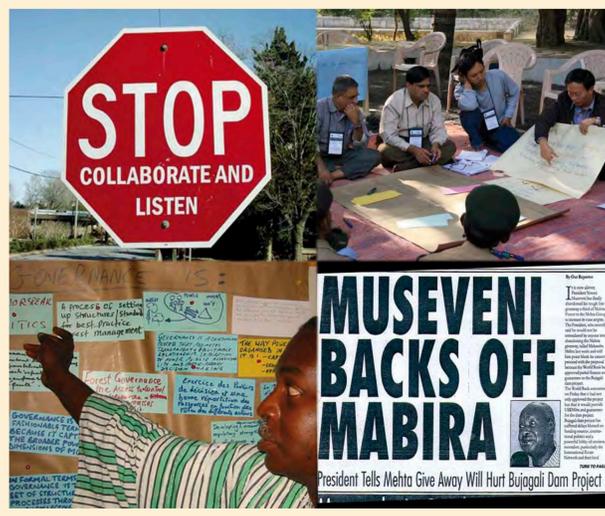
Key outputs so far

- 9 in-country teams active in Ghana, Cameroon, Uganda, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Indonesia, India and Vietnam – and preparations for a team in Tanzania
- Major international learning events in Ghana, South Africa, Uganda, India and Malawi on social justice in forestry
- 66 policy research outputs and tools
- 49 press, TV and radio advocacy outputs
- International collaboration with more than 21 organisations and participation in more than 20 forums
- Independent evaluation in late 2008

Impacts so far

- President in Uganda forced to back down from give-away of forest reserves to agribusiness after pressure from 'people's power'
- High-level action on illegal logging and Chinese investment in Mozambique
- Rights and governance reform back on the agenda in Ghana by shaping the VPA
- Better understanding of the value of charcoal in Malawi, leading to policy reviews and improved governance
- Governance frameworks better enabling community forestry in Vietnam

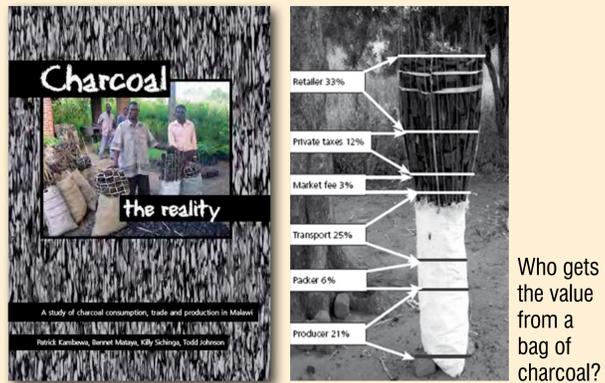
Working with partners to get at the 'truth', then doing whatever it takes to have impact with evidence



Participation of policy makers in the team and in project activities has given us direct policy influence
Nguyen Quang Tan, FGLG Vietnam

Professionalism of members of FGLG-Uganda has been vital in raising interest and having impact
Stephen Khaukha, Uganda

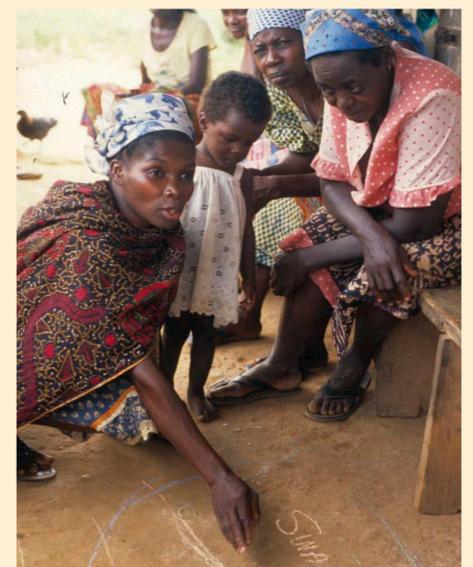
Putting the spotlight on the charcoal trade in Malawi



FGLG's study revealed widespread problems of illegality badly affecting local people and the forest. The work was used to kick up a fuss and the Forestry Commission is now committed in its strategic plan to make improvements and donors have these as criteria for their support
Kyeretwie Opoku, Ghana

FGLG's key role is 'speaking truth to power'
Sushil Saigal, India

CONTRIBUTING TO LOCAL OWNERSHIP OF THE VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON FOREST GOVERNANCE BETWEEN EC AND GHANA



- FGLG members on the VPA Steering Committee, others in various working groups around it
- IIED and FGLG Ghana assessed VPA's potential impacts:
 - VPA an important stepping stone for reform
 - But VPA alone not enough – forest will still be degraded and sector will make a smaller economic contribution
 - Preliminary estimate of the possible revenue from a national REDD strategy
 - Recommendations on policy improvements
- Ghana Government and EC signed the VPA in 2008 – now the real work begins!
- FGLG continues to press for community rights and democratic policymaking

Looking ahead

- Over the next 5 years FGLG will continue working on social justice in forestry, focusing on:
 - Forest rights and small forest enterprise
 - Legitimate forest products
 - Pro-poor climate change mitigation and adaptation through forestry
 - Trans-national learning and preparedness

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Buitenlandse Zaken
Ontwikkelings
samenwerking