

FGLG-Uganda

Progress report 2012



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Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE)
Plot 96, Kanjokya Street, Kamwokya
P.O Box 29836, Kampala
Email: acode@acode-u.org 2 | P a g e

Forest Governance Learning Group Narrative Report: January 2012 to December 2012

1.0 Introduction

This is a narrative report for the Uganda Forest Governance Learning Group (UFGLG) for the period of January 2012 to December 2012. The 2012/2013 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 for 2012/2013 specifically provides for the following activities:

- Undertake a study on access to land in NFA managed forest reserves and access to such lands by communities
- Support the work of the Parliamentary Committee on ENR by providing information and analysis on forest rights and governance issues
- Undertake a comprehensive audit of the implementation of CFM agreements since the enactment of the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act 2003
- Conduct a national public hearing on the failures and challenges for forestry governance in Uganda and proposed policy response options
- Undertake a study on public procurement and sustainability of forest produce with particular focus on procurement of certified timber products
- Prepare, produce and publish a State of Forestry Governance Report
- Multi-stakeholder symposium on forestry governance
- Partner with NEMA to organize a High Level Leadership Retreat on Environment and Natural Resources Governance
- Monitor, publish and disseminate quarterly updates on REDD implementation in Uganda
- Provide research and advocacy support for the work of the REDD focal point
- Promote national and trans-national learning and preparedness
- Promote research and advocacy to promote ENR financing
- Support the development and the National Climate Change Policy and Climate Change negotiations
- Support the Development of the benefit sharing policy for the Forestry Sector
- 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

The following activities were undertaken during the period of January to December 2012.

2.0 Research and Analysis

2.1 Provide Research and Advocacy Support for the Work of the REDD Focal Point

Development of the Conflicts and Grievances Management Strategy

ACODE/FGLG has been participating in the REDD+ preparedness process and in preparation of the REDD+ preparedness proposal which was submitted to the FCPF last year. Recommendations were made by the FCPF which had to be undertaken before signing the partnership agreement. ACODE/FGLG in partnership with IUCN developed the draft conflicts and grievances management strategy which was presented to the REDD+ working group for discussions and finally adopted by the REDD Steering Committee after approval. The strategy became part of the REDD Proposal.

2.2 Support the Development of National Climate Change Policy and Climate Change Negotiations

2.2.1 Development of the National Climate Change Policy

ACODE/FGLG was part of the ENR-CSOs that undertook country wide consultations in about 80 districts aimed at ensuring long term adaptation; appropriate mitigation; sustainable

financing mechanisms and functional cross-sectoral institutional coordination to address climate change in Uganda. ENR-CSOs in this regard prepared a policy position paper to inform the climate change policy formulation process. ACODE/FGLG was one of the key facilitators in the preparation of this position paper which was presented at a forum that involved the technocrats at the Ministry of Water and Environment, and the consultants taking lead on the development of the policy. Some of the recommendations from this paper were adopted by the consultants in the draft climate change policy.

2.2.2 Civil Society Statement on Durban Climate Change Negotiations, Conference Outcomes and Lessons for Future Climate Talks

FGLG in partnership with Climate Action Network-Uganda (CAN-Uganda) produced and published a Statement in the Daily Monitor newspaper on April 26th 2012. This press release provided a summary of COP17 climate change negotiations outcomes on issues of finance, legal framework, adaptation, mitigation, REDD+ and forests. It further gave key issues and information for Uganda to consider as it prepares for negotiations in Qatar 2012.

2.3 Support the Work of the Parliamentary Committee on ENR by Providing Information and Analysis on Forest Rights and Governance Issues

Brief on the Role of Parliament in Sustainable Management of Uganda's Natural Resources

ACODE/FGLG prepared and published a policy brief in the press entitled: ***'The Role of Parliament in Sustainable Management of Uganda's Natural Resources'***. This policy brief was published on May 26th 2012 in the New Vision Newspaper. It emphasised the role of Parliament in ensuring sustainable management of the environment and natural resources for the present and future generations. It expounded on the following key issues; (i) the power of the Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources to make recommendations regarding the management of natural resources and follow up on their resolutions/recommendations (ii) the power of parliament to initiate laws that provide greater protection to the environment and natural resource sector (iii) the powers of the committee on natural resources to enforce policies and laws.

2.4 Multi-Stakeholder Symposium on Forestry Governance

Preparation of Research Papers for the Forest Governance Symposium

ACODE was involved in the preparation of the research papers presented at the forest governance symposium which took place on the 17th and 18th April 2012. The papers informed the stakeholders present of the forest sector governance issues that need to be addressed. These papers will be available on the ACODE/FGLG website once it is operational;

- Achievements, Challenges, and Opportunities in the Forestry Sector 2001 – 2011;
- Forest Sector Contributions to the National Economy; Energy, Financial, Timber, Herbal, Employment Generation and Carbon Trade Opportunities;
- A diagnostic review of corruption in the forestry sector;
- Making a business case for the forest sector in Uganda: successes, opportunities and challenges;
- Political and governance issues affecting the forestry sector: role and effectiveness of ENR Parliamentary Committee and other relevant governance structures.

2.5 Articles on Forest Governance

2.5.1 ACODE/FGLG published an article in the press media entitled: ***'We Need Effective Forest Governance'*** on 29th February 2012. The article highlighted forest governance issues including those discussed during the FGLG first quarter meeting for this year. This article can be accessed on the link below;

www.independent.co.ug/column/opinion/5325-we-need-effective-forest-governance or
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201203010480.html>

2.5.2 ACODE/FGLG published an article on ‘The Interplay between Gender and Climate Change’. This was published on 27th June 2012 in the independent newspaper. It highlighted the need for gender mainstreaming in order to ensure that women’s views and opinions are valued during the decision making process. Equal opportunity should be accorded to both women and men when setting up strategies concerned with climate change. The link for this article is listed below:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201206280341.html>

2.5.3 ACODE/FGLG published an article in the press media entitled: ‘**Recognise Forest Dependent Communities and their Rights**’ on 26th November 2012. The Article emphasised the need for forest dependent communities to be involved in forest use and protection as a strategy to further promote sustainable forest management policies and programmes. This article can be accessed on the link below;

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/635956-recognise-forest-dependent-communities-and-their-rights.html>

2.6 Undertake a Study on Access to Land in NFA Managed Forest Reserves and Access to Such Lands by Communities

This study has been initiated; a concept note was developed with details of the scope of the study. A resource person was identified to undertake this study and has started to do so. One of its objectives is to establish whether the allocation procedures of land in NFA managed forest reserves are fair and transparent as envisaged in the National Forest Plan of 2002.

2.7 Monitor, Publish and Disseminate Quarterly Updates on REDD Implementation in Uganda

A draft info sheet has been prepared on the status of REDD implementation in Uganda. It provides information on the status of REDD in Uganda; preparation of Uganda’s REDD+ project identification note, Uganda’s Readiness Preparation proposal, and details of the Readiness Grant Agreement. This draft is in the review process pending publication. It will provide an overview of where Uganda is in the REDD+ implementation process.

2.8 Support the work of the Parliamentary Committee on ENR by providing information and analysis on forest rights and governance issues

A draft policy briefing paper has been prepared providing an analysis of the role of the parliamentary committee on natural resources specifically under the forestry sub sector and it gives recommendations to the committee regarding the use of its powers to ensure sustainable management of the forestry sector. This briefing paper builds on the newspaper brief that was published by FGLG on May 26th 2012 that looked at ‘*The role of parliament in sustainable management of Uganda’s natural resources*’. The draft is yet to be reviewed.

3.0 Capacity Building

3.1 Partnership with SAIIA and GARN

ACODE/FGLG entered into a partnership with the South African Institute for International Affairs (SAIIA), a non-government research institute focused on South Africa and Africa’s international relations. The partnership aims to raise the profile of Governance issues in the extractive sectors. ACODE/FGLG also formalised its partnerships with the Governance of Africa’s Resources Network (GARN). GARN is a network of researchers from various African states which include; Ghana, Angola, Tanzania, South Africa, Uganda, DRC and Sudan whose core aim is to strengthen research capacity and actively promote the dissemination of research by Africans.

3.2 Serving on the Responsive Forest Governance Initiative (RFGI) Policy Advisory Group

ACODE/FGLG was invited to serve as a member on the RFGI Policy Advisor Group (PAG). The policy advisory group will be a five member team of professionals from civil society, local government, academic, and forestry and research backgrounds. The PAG member's roles include; providing intellectual advice to the research team, identifying and creating links between the RFGI research outputs and policy processes in the country at the local and national level.

3.3 Study on Opportunities for Engagement of Regional Bodies to Influence Governance of Natural Resources in Africa

ACODE/FGLG is part of the on-going study on opportunities for engagement of regional bodies to influence governance of natural resources in Africa. ACODE/FGLG is taking the lead on the assessment of potential engagement opportunities for GARN within UNECA.

3.4 The Governance of Africa's Resources Learning Event

ACODE/FGLG in partnership with the Governance Of Africa's Resources(GARN) programme, the South African Institute for International Affairs(SAIIA) organised a seminar with the theme: ***'The Role of Resources in Africa's Future: Towards a Vision for the Governance of Africa's Natural Resources***

A GARN Member making a presentation at the Seminar

This took place on the 13th March 2012 and was followed by a meeting for the GARN members on the 14th March 2012. A report of the proceedings was produced and is available on the SAIIA website (<http://www.saiia.org.za/feature/the-role-of-resources-in-africa-s-future-towards-a-vision-for-the-governance-of-africa-s-natural-resources.html>)

This meeting involved selected delegates from Uganda and other resource-rich African states.

3.5 Support the Development of the National Climate Change Policy and Climate Change Negotiations

3.5.1 Pre-COP 18 Workshop for Civil Society Organisations

ACODE was part of the organisers of the Civil Society Organization preparatory workshop to COP 18 that was held at Hotel Africana on the 6th of November 2012 to develop a CSO position paper to COP 18. The meeting was organized by a coalition of organizations; ACODE, AAIU, EA, EMLI, Tree Talk and SEATINI.

Every year, the UNFCCC convenes and sits the Conference of Parties where Governments come together to negotiate on how to stabilize the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Having not held any preparatory workshops, it was imperative for CSOs to plan together and harmonize their position with that of government in preparation for the Qatar climate talks. Therefore the above organizing partners convened a workshop that brought together 64 participants from all the regions of Uganda to develop a position on COP18.

Participants during the COP 18 civil society workshop

A report was prepared by the organisers to show the CSO position and messages for COP 18. This report was to be shared with the government delegates to provide input for COP 18.

3.5.2 Civil Society Statement to 7th Climate Change Forum and COP18/CMP8

Based on the workshop proceedings that took place on 6th November 2012, the workshop positions which were developed at the end of the workshop by the participants were set out

in a press statement on November 28th 2012. Some of the positions included; government was called upon to enhance adaptive capacity of Ugandans through improving the national emergency response system, the health care system, addressing food insecurity, increasing accessibility to affordable energy and water and other basic needs of life. Regarding COP18, need for the conference to ensure adequate support for the implementation of country driven adaptation measures and actions in least developed countries was called upon.

3.5.3 Stakeholder Meeting on the Revised Climate Change Policy Implementation Strategy

ACODE/FGLG was involved and provided input during the planning meetings held in preparation for the multi stakeholder consultative workshop on the revised climate change policy implementation strategy. The planning meetings which were organised by Ecological Christian Organisation on behalf of the Climate Action Network (CAN-U) took place on 29th November 2012 at ECO with another meeting on 4th December 2012 at the DENIVA office. The meeting on 4th December was aimed at seeking and documenting civil society views on proposed strategies in the revised climate change policy implementation strategy. The broader CSO stakeholder meeting took place on 7th December 2012; ACODE/FGLG prepared the meeting's report on CSOs views for the revised climate change policy implementation strategy from which a CSO position paper will be prepared and presented to the government in its meeting on 13th December 2012.

4.0 Promote national and trans-national learning and preparedness Participation in International Events

4.1 Learning Event in Vietnam

UFGLG participated in the learning event in Vietnam 26th to 30th March 2012. It was represented by a UFGLG member who shared some of the key issues discussed; REDD and climate change processes, Uganda's political problems affecting the forestry sector, need to revitalise cross-team work.

4.2 Study Tour to Ghana on Timber Trade Practices

A six member Ugandan delegation underwent a study tour to Ghana from the 17th to 24th June 2012. ACODE/FGLG participated in this study tour in Ghana which was partly supported by the WWF Uganda office. The purpose of this visit was to enable them study Ghana's voluntary partnership agreement and to take the delegation through the timber trade initiatives, process, timber tracking mechanisms, timber trade organisation, forest certification, and responsible timber trade practices. The report from this tour will be shared with the relevant stakeholders in order to better understand timber trade and how to ensure sustainable forest management through practises like forest certification and electronic timber tracking as recommended from this tour.

4.3 Learning event in Germany on Climate Change Issues

5.0 Policy Outreach and Advocacy

5.1 FGLG Quarterly Meeting

FGLG held its first quarterly meeting for 2012 on 8th February to discuss current forestry governance issues and also the annual work plan. The group observed new members on board for example the National Forestry Authority whose ED was present at this meeting and National Environment Management Authority which was represented including district forestry officers. A number of presentations were made at this meeting; **Governance Issues In Uganda's Forestry Sector** by ACODE, a presentation was made on a study; **The Tropical Timber Trade In Africa's Great Lakes: A Case Study Of DRC/Uganda** by researchers from the South African Institute of International Affairs, and 'The

Implementation Of REDD In Uganda: Process And Progress' by Water Governance Institute. The meeting had 37 members present.

5.2 FGLG consultative meeting on the draft Forestry Regulations

The Uganda Forest Governance Learning Group (UFGLG) organised a prompt consultative meeting at ACODE on 2nd November to discuss the draft forestry Regulations. This UFGLG meeting was in preparation for the scheduled Ministry of Water and Environment meeting to review the Forestry Regulations. The comments raised at the FGLG meeting were shared with the Forestry Sector Support Department (FSSD)/ Ministry of Water and Environment at a meeting they organised for a few technical persons on 16th November 2012 for which ACODE was part. The FSSD was handed with the UFGLG comments which are to be part of the department's overall comments to finalise these forestry regulations which are intended to operationalise the current National Forestry and Tree Planting Act of 2003.

Participation in in-country activities

5.3 The Forest Governance Symposium

The Uganda Forest Governance Learning Group with support from Care International in Uganda and ACODE organised a symposium on forest governance under the theme: ***A Decade of Forestry Reforms in Uganda; Reflecting on the Successes and Challenges.*** The symposium provided a platform for stakeholders to dialogue on governance issues affecting the forestry sector. It took place on 17th and 18th April 2012. ACODE was tasked with securing commitment of participants, coordination and planning, reviewing the papers to be presented during the symposium, and inviting participants on behalf of FGLG.

ACODE/FGLG made a presentation during the forest symposium that it organised. The presentation was entitled: ***'Governance and Politics in Uganda's Forestry Sector: The Role and Effectiveness of the Parliament Committee on Natural Resources'***.

The presentation highlighted the crisis in Uganda's forestry sector and discussed the governance crisis. Reflections on the role of the parliamentary committee on ENR were part of the presentation and discussions.

5.4 The 6th National Climate Change Forum

ACODE/FGLG worked with the Ministry of Water and Environment to organise the 6th National Climate Change Forum which took place on 5th April 2012. This meeting was held to provide feedback to stakeholders on the outcomes of COP 17 climate change negotiations in Durban. This was intended to bring various stakeholders on board on the issues discussed and prepare the road map for the next discussions. About 98 participants participated in this meeting. The following key issues were raised;(i) the green climate fund still remains an empty promise unless a reliable law is secured as well as additional, predictable and adequate financial resources (ii) the need for transparency and accountability in the utilisation of national financial resources in order to get other funding opportunities for climate change priority actions.

5.5 The Launch of the Documentary: 'Faces Of Climate Change-The Gender Perspective'

The Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Gender and Social Development in collaboration with the Royal Danish Embassy Kampala organised the launch for a documentary that portrayed the effects of climate change on women in various parts of Uganda. ACODE/UFGLG participated in the meeting which took place on 19th March 2012. The aim of this launch was to advocate for a gender sensitive climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in Uganda by portraying the various gender implications on men and women.

5.6 The 5th National REDD-Plus Steering Committee Meeting

ACODE as a member of the REDD+ steering committee took part in the steering committee meeting hosted by the Ministry of Water and Environment on 22nd March 2012 and provided guidance on the conflicts and grievances strategy. The participants committee (PC) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank decided to allocate funding from FCPF to Uganda to enable it to move ahead with preparation for REDD-plus readiness strategy. However some conditions were set before the grant agreement could be signed. Some of the conditions were; to develop an awareness and communications strategy, develop a conflicts and grievances management strategy, develop a participation and consultation strategy.

5.7 The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group-Uganda Chapter

The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG) is an initiative of the International Institute on Environment and Development. It is an informal group of conservation and development actors who are interested in exploring better ways in which they could play their roles in the recognition of the link between natural resources and poverty. ACODE as a partner of PCLG was involved in this meeting which took place on 29th March 2012 with the major aim of introducing PCLG to stakeholders and discussing the groups' proposed projects.

5.8 Working Group Meetings to Provide Input from CSOs to Climate Change Policy

CSOs are interested in engaging in the climate change formulation process and met to analyse the consultants' background papers to the policy. As a member of Climate Action Network-Uganda, ACODE/FGLG hosted and participated in various thematic working group meetings to provide input. On 27th April a meeting was held at ACODE to discuss 2 thematic climate change policy working papers namely: *'Development of Climate Change Policy and Implementation Strategy for Uganda. Policy, Institutional and Coordination Issues Background Paper'* and *'Development of Climate Change Policy and Implementation Strategy for Uganda Climate Change Financing Background Paper'*.

5.9 Inception Workshop for the In-Country Timber Trade Study

FGLG is among the key stakeholders that are providing input to the study being undertaken by WWF Uganda country office under the project entitled: ***Assessing Extent of Illegal Timber Trade in Uganda***. The consultants presented an inception report during this workshop which was held on 24th May 2012. The overall objective of this on-going study is to assess, establish and map the extent of illegal timber trade across the country and propose solutions to rid the country of illegal timber trade.

5.10 Official Launch of Responsive Forest Governance Initiative (RFGI) Programme in Uganda

ACODE took part and provided input during the launch of the RFGI on 31st May 2012. The Responsive Forest Governance Initiative is an Africa-wide comparative environmental governance research and training programme of CODESRIA (Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa), IUCN and the University of Illinois. RFGI aims to enhance and help institutionalize widespread responsive and accountable local governance processes that reduce vulnerability, enhance local wellbeing, and improve forest management with a special focus on developing safeguards and guidelines to ensure fair and equitable implementation of the REDD+ and climate-adaptation interventions. In Uganda, RFGI will mainly focus on assessing existing forestry decentralisation policies, the rationale behind these policies and their democracy, equity and forest management effects.

5.11 Stakeholders Meeting to Discuss the Draft Climate Change Policy

ACODE/FGLG having been part of the climate change formulation process was involved in a stakeholders meeting on 4th June 2012 to discuss the draft climate change policy. The Uganda climate change policy development process has been underway and the zero draft policy has been shared and is ready for discussion with key players across different sectors. The development of a climate change policy and its implementation strategy are among the key current undertakings for the environment and natural resources subsector. This particular undertaking is expected to be completed by the end of 2011/12 financial year. The Climate Change Unit under the Ministry of Water and Environment, whose function among others includes initiating and coordinating the development and review of climate change policies and guidelines is spearheading the coordination of this undertaking. ACODE/FGLG is one of the key stakeholders that was invited to provide input into the process.

5.12 ENR-CSOs Thematic Working Group Meeting

The Water and Environment Sector Review Process for this year 2012 is on-going. ENR-CSOs therefore have formed thematic working groups based on sub components of; environment, climate change, wetlands, forestry and governance in order to enhance coordination and effective participation in the joint sector review process. A meeting was held on 29th June to review and deliberate on the mode of operation of these groups and plan for ENR-CSO effective engagement and participation in the review process. ACODE/FGLG is taking the lead on the ENR governance sub sector working group.

5.13 Meeting on In Country Timber Trade Studies

ACODE/FGLG provided input in a meeting on 26th July 2012 organised by Care International Uganda and WWF Uganda to present two studies commissioned by WWF and Care International Uganda. ACODE/FGLG as a key stakeholder in the forestry sector was part of the participants at this meeting. The WWF Uganda country office with support from EU through FAO under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) support programme commissioned a study on in country timber trade, to provide a better understanding of the trade and propose best practices. The Care international Uganda study addresses issues of combating illegal trade in timber and charcoal. The objectives of the meeting were; to share these findings from the field with the invited stakeholders for their input and to discuss and validate the proposed recommendations from the consultant's reports.

5.14 Consultative Meeting On REDD+ Benefit Sharing

ACODE/FGLG has been participating in the REDD+ process in Uganda and was therefore part of this consultative meeting organised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on 30th August 2012. In this regard, IUCN is undertaking consultations with relevant stakeholders to address one of the pro-poor principles; 'all REDD activities should ensure equitable and transparent sharing of benefits and responsibilities vertically and horizontally, with specific attention to vulnerable groups'. This meeting was held to inform stakeholders at national level about the emerging issues from the community consultations for further discussions and to raise key issues for the national REDD+ secretariat and other partners to take forward as recommendations to guide the design and implementation of national benefit sharing mechanisms for REDD+ in Uganda.

5.15 ENR-CSO Thematic Working Group Meeting

ACODE/FGLG is an active member of the ENR-CSO Network and participated in this meeting held on 19th September 2012 to review the draft ENR-CSO performance report which will provide account of CSO work to communicate accountability to government (ACODE participated in the CSO performance report), and to review the draft reports of the evaluation of government performance. Civil society organisations in the Environment and

Natural sub sector (ENR-CSO Network) have been engaged in the Ministry of Water and Environment joint sector review process through self-performance appraisal and also assessing of government performance in light of its commitments for the last financial year 2011/12. ACODE takes leadership in the governance thematic working group.

5.16 Expert Seminar on Minority and Indigenous People's Rights to Land and Development in East Africa

UFGLG provided input in a the seminar organised by the Minority Groups International on 5th October 2012 to look at how to build on legal precedents, positive national laws and policies to make a strategic contribution to the defence of land and development rights for minority and indigenous communities in Eastern Africa. ACODE/FGLG participated in this seminar which discussed the challenges faced by minority and indigenous peoples (MIPs). Some of these challenges discussed included; Patterns of long term displacement of indigenous communities from their traditional lands, often with little or no compensation, widespread on-going practice of land-grabbing, generally with the involvement or complicity of governmental authorities or politicians, increased competition for available land among others.

5.17 Meeting to Disseminate New Measures following the Ban on Timber Harvesting

ACODE/FGLG was invited as one of the key stakeholders in the forestry governance arena to share forestry governance issues and challenges during this meeting. The Minister of Water and Environment announced a ban on timber harvesting in March for three months. This was due to the decline of forest resources all over Uganda. There was need to reduce on this loss in order to address the increased decline in Uganda's forest cover and other forest sector concerns. The meeting was therefore arranged by the Ministry of Water and Environment on 18th July 2012 for DFOs, CSOs and commercial tree growers to disseminate and discuss the new measures that the Ministry released in order to ensure that the forestry sector improves and illegal timber cutting is addressed. Timber harvesting was halted and measures were carried out during this period such as verification of current timber licenses, registration of chain saws being used among others.

5.18 Meeting to Review the Draft Forestry Regulations

Having had a consultative meeting at ACODE to discuss the Draft forestry regulations, UFGLG was part of the technical persons at a meeting held on 16th November 2012 to review the Draft Forestry Regulations which were prepared in 2006 through a consultative process with the guidance of an inter-ministerial committee. It was organised by the Ministry of Water and Environment. The Forest Governance Learning Group (UFGLG) had shared its preliminary comments with the ministry/forest sector support department. A task force was created to further compile these comments with the Forest Sector Support Department and ACODE/FGLG is part of this task force that met after this meeting on 30th November 2012 to consolidate the overall comments.

5.19 National Dialogue on Climate Change

UFGLG being involved in the climate change policy formulation was part of this dialogue on 19th October 2012 for information sharing on the process. Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM-Uganda) organised a dialogue under the theme; '*National Draft Climate Change Policy and its responsiveness to small holder Farmer's Needs*'. The major aim of this dialogue was to provide a platform for discussions on climate change effects and their implications on agriculture and to thereby explore policy advancements of the current draft Climate Change Policy and its responsiveness to small scale farmers. Overall, from the meeting it was realised that some farmers are still unaware of climate change and its impacts on agriculture. The draft Climate Change Policy is yet to be adopted so this dialogue was timely for the proposed policy recommendations for small holder farmers.

5.20 The Post Ministry of Water and Environment Joint Sector Review 2012 Sharing Meeting

The Ministry of Water and Environment Joint Sector Review meeting (MWE JSR) for 2011/12 was held in October and a number of undertakings were selected for implementation in FY 2012/13. The Civil Society Organisations in the Environment and Natural Resources sub sector (ENR-CSO) of which ACODE/FGLG is an active member, has been part of the Joint Sector Review process. This meeting was held on 22nd November 2012 to provide feedback to ENR-CSO network members on the proceedings of the MWE JSR meeting 2012 and for the members to develop strategies for the next FY MWE undertakings. The meeting objectives were to; brief ENR-CSO members about the proceedings of the MWE JSR meeting 2012; explore strategies for CSO participation in the implementation of the MWE's undertakings for FY 2012/13; and develop strategies for deepening CSO's participation in the MWE JSR processes.

5.21 The Thematic Group Meeting to Discuss the Final Draft of the National Climate Change Policy

This meeting was held on 4th July 2012 to discuss the draft climate change policy in preparation for the national climate change policy conference. The national consultation process is coming to an end as far as Uganda's climate change policy development is concerned. ACODE is a member of this thematic group and has been part of the CSOs who prepared policy proposals to better inform the national climate change policy during its formulation process. The meeting objectives was to understand the final draft of the climate change policy and examine if the CSO views based on the CSO policy proposals' position paper prepared and presented to the Ministry of Water and Environment were included in the draft policy.

5.22 Validation Meeting of the Research on the Extent, Manifestation and Implications of Corruption in the Forestry and Wildlife Sectors held on 11th September 2012

ACODE/FGLG being an active stakeholder in forestry governance and issues of corruption in the forestry sector provided input to the study by Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda during the validation meeting on 11th September 2012. Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU) organised this validation meeting of the research study undertaken on *the extent, manifestation and implications of corruption for sustainable management of forestry and wildlife sectors in Uganda*. The research was specifically carried out in Kibaale, Kabarole and Hoima districts in western Uganda by ACCU with support from Care International Uganda. This validation meeting was held to discuss the draft action research report submitted by the consultant. The study specifically focused on; undertaking a comprehensive governance analysis of the forestry and wildlife sectors, reviewing and identifying gaps in existing forestry and wildlife policies/laws that lead to corruption as well as identifying accountability centres within the forestry and wildlife sectors both at district and national levels.

5.23 Meeting to Discuss a Study on Co-ordination of Stakeholders in the Forestry Sector

ACODE/FGLG was part of the stakeholders who took part in this meeting on 19th July 2012 to inform the organiser about the role and work of the FGLG. Food and Agriculture Organization and the Forest Sector Support Department under the Ministry of Water and Environment are jointly implementing a project: '*support for the rehabilitation, development and sustainable management of forest resources in Uganda*'. The project aims to improve the forestry sector in northern Uganda and it focuses on five districts namely; Gulu, Amuru, Kitgum, Pader, and Lira. The FAO project aims to improve coordination and cooperation between forestry stakeholders. This meeting was therefore held to provide input into one of its activities which is improving coordination and quality assurance within stakeholders in the forestry sector at national and district level.

5.24 The National REDD+ Forum

As a stakeholder in the REDD+ process and a member of the REDD+ steering committee, having worked with IUCN in the R-PP process ACODE/FGLG was involved in this national forum held on 11th December 2012. This forum was organised by IUCN to bring together all the REDD+ stakeholders to discuss and identify the emerging lessons and recommendations that should be taken forward by the national REDD+ secretariat in the development of the national REDD+ strategy and to make recommendations for government, development partners, private sector and civil society to take forward in developing future projects on REDD

6.0 Forest Governance Highlights

- **Forest Encroachers in Mabira Forest Reserve**

There are reports of a new wave of encroachers on Mabira Central Forest Reserve and these include politicians and businessmen. Further media reports observed that NFA officials specifically enforcement officers have devised means to 'pay themselves' by taking bribes from charcoal burners.

- **The Timber Harvesting Ban**

The Minister of Water and Environment imposed a three month ban on timber harvesting which took effect from March 6th 2012. The directive from the Ministry stated that all importers and traders in chainsaws and handsaws used in pit sawing should be registered to regulate the cutting of timber. The ban was intended to address the serious depletion of the forest resources in the country, and has however been lifted with proposals such as establishment of a regulatory unit and issuance of new licenses. FGLG will continue to engage in this process with the Ministry.

- **The Draft Forestry Regulations**

The Ministry of Water and Environment is in the process of finalising the forestry regulations. The solicitor general's draft of the regulations has been resubmitted to the ministry for final comments. The forestry regulations will operationalize the current national forestry and tree planting act of 2003. The process of commenting on this draft is on-going among the forestry sector stakeholders.

- **Change of the REDD+ Focal Point**

Currently the Forestry Sector Support Department (FSSD) serves as the national REDD+ focal point having taken over from the National Forestry Authority.

7.0 Impact

- The activities of UFGLG have raised the profile of Governance issues in the forest sector which partly caused the ban on timber harvest and a review of the concession process.
- The activities of UFGLG have created pressure on Government to formulate the National Climate Change Policy and Benefit sharing Policy in the forestry sector.
- The activities have also influenced some reviews in the sector that are likely to cause some reforms;

I. The Ministry has finally appointed a substantive Executive Director of the National Forestry Authority.

II. The Forest Support Sector Department of the Ministry of Water and Environment is under review to identify the challenges and needs to enable it execute its mandate.

- The proposals and comments on the Forestry Regulations made by UFGLG were appreciated and adopted by the Ministry of Water and Environment/Forest Sector Support Department and are to be submitted to the Solicitor General for finalisation of the Regulations.
- The observations and recommendations by UFGLG on the Climate Change Policy Implementation Strategy were incorporated in the revised implementation strategy; one of the major issues realised was the absence of clear strategy interventions for the priority sectors in the original strategy which was in form of a work plan. The revised strategy is clearer with set strategic interventions and the responsible agencies indicated.
- The UFGLG with other stakeholders provided a basis for the government position on COP 18 based on outcomes of the preparatory meeting for COP 18 for example issues of innovative financial mechanisms for climate change issues.

8.0 Lessons and Challenges

- The forestry sector still remains under funded especially at district level. Inadequate and unbalanced funding has reduced the sector's effectiveness and increased its vulnerability to corruption. FGLG continues to advocate for increased funding for the sector.
- The forestry sector is faced with challenges that were reported in the New Vision newspaper November 30th 2012. Some of these challenges included; the sector is looked at as government business with no benefits accruing to local communities, illegal timber trade is rampant, there are reports of NFA officials are being threatened by illegal loggers in the course of their business. More of these challenges can be found in the link below with the report.

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/637059-timber-s-unholy-journey-to-the-market.html>

- FGLG continues to advocate for benefit sharing within the sector which could improve the relationship between NFA and the local communities and promote sustainable forest management

9.0 Implications for the Work Ahead

FGLG is still faced with challenges of political pressure from the government which has implications on its work.

10.0 Relationship of FGLG with State Authorities

ACODE/FGLG maintains a good relationship with state authorities/government ministries with which it has worked with in implementing various activities these include; the Ministry of Water and Environment, the Forest Sector Support Department and the National Forestry authority.

11.0 Relationship of FGLG with Other Organisations

FGLG has a good relationship with various organisations; it is part of coalitions within the ENR civil society sector that is the ENR-CSO network with which it is continually engaging with. FGLG has worked with Care International Uganda, WWF Uganda, and even the Uganda Forest Working Group of which it is an active member. Other organisations include WWF, IUCN, Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM-Uganda) among other organisations with which FGLG has been engaged with in its work, including the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group with which it is partnered with on several biodiversity conservation projects.

12.0 Links Made With Other EU Supported Initiatives

None.

13.0 How EC Support Has Been Acknowledged In Any Outputs

No specific product has been published.

14.0 Conclusion

FGLG continues to advocate for effective forest governance in Uganda's forestry sector and is grateful to IIED for the funding and continued support in this regard.