UPDATE – APRIL 2007

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

SUMMARY

This is the fourth Update from the Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG). We are an informal alliance of in-country teams and international partners currently active in ten countries. We try to connect those marginalized from forest governance to those controlling it, and to help both do things better. We carry out focused studies, develop tactics and tools, hold learning events, and work to effect change. This Update describes activities over the last year, impacts to date, the state of play in participating countries, and the path ahead.

Over the last year the FGLG has produced:

- **10 country teams in place and active in Niger, Ghana, Cameroon, Uganda, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Indonesia, India and Vietnam**
- **A major learning event on making the law work better for social justice in forestry, involving all the country teams and other international players, in which we recorded lessons learned identified new tactics**
- **19 new policy research outputs and tools**
- **15 new press articles and advocacy outputs**
- **International outreach activities including cooperation with 14 international organisations and participation in 12 international forums**
- **Increased engagement of decision-makers on key issues, such as through advocacy work to fight alienation of forest reserve areas to agribusiness in Uganda, and high-level debate on destructive logging in Mozambique**
- **Impact such as shaping the Voluntary Partnership Agreement on legal timber between EC and Ghana, developing influential small forestry enterprise development strategy in South Africa, and re-orienting the debate about charcoal production in Malawi away from ineffective and regressive policing towards sustainable livelihoods**
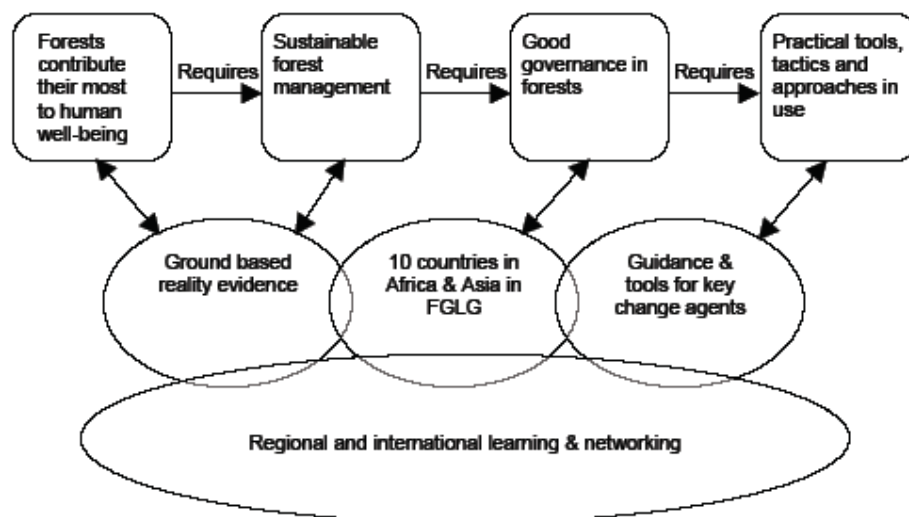
In the coming year FGLG will build on the growing recognition that tackling injustice in decision-making about trees and forests is now the primary challenge for sustainability in many places. We expect to focus in particular on: an international synthesis of key issues on local land tenure and forest resource access; preparing a plan for a film; recording incidents, breakthroughs, set-backs and emerging issues; a second cross-country learning event focused on governance of responsible forest enterprise; international networking; and deepening in-country impact wherever possible.

The website for the FGLG, where news, reports and work plans for the FGLG country teams can be found, is:
http://www.iied.org/forestry/research/projects/forest.html

About the Forest Governance Learning Group

A shared belief motivates the FGLG: that forestry can contribute to the eradication of poverty and sustainability – with the right leadership, institutions, policy decisions and practical systems – but that practical forest governance approaches and real preparedness to implement them on the ground are in short supply. The rationale for the Group is shown in the diagram below:

FGLG is aiming for to make progress by 2009 on governance that improves forest-linked livelihoods in four main areas: national poverty reduction and forestry programmes; illegal logging initiatives; forestry enterprise initiatives; and locally controlled forestry. The Group also aims to contribute to the European Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) process in its partnerships with African and Asian countries. Activities involve participatory analysis, learning and training events, network building, supported uptake of governance tools, and taking direct opportunities for governance reform. Inter-country capacity-building work and engagement with international policy processes is also involved. Teams in the following countries are involved: **Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, South Africa, Uganda, India, Indonesia and Vietnam**. Country teams involve opinion-formers and decision makers, plus individuals who articulate the issues faced by those marginalized from governance, and other facilitators who work with them.

Partners involved:
- International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) steers the group
- Savcor Indufor Oy based in Finland
- LTS International (LTSI) based in the UK
- Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC)
- Cellule de Recherche Action Concertée sur la Gestion des Ressources Naturelles (CRAC-GRN) convenes the team in Niger
- Civic Response convenes the team in Ghana
- Forestry South Africa convenes the team in South Africa
- University of Eduardo Mondlane and Terra Firma convene the team in Mozambique
- Training Support for Partners and Centre for Development Management convene the team in Malawi
- Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment convenes the team in Uganda
- Center for International Forestry Research convenes the team in Cameroon
- Centre for People's Forestry convenes the team in India
- Inspirit and the Multi-stakeholder Forestry Programme convene the team in Indonesia
- An independent researcher with good links to government convenes the team in Vietnam

FGLG got going in mid 2003, with funding for an inception period from UK DFID. From February 2005 a second phase of work began with support from the EC and the Dutch government to early 2009.

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Uganda warned over forestland giveaways

Poverty levels reduce

LAND BONANZA

DAILY MONITOR
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2006   NATIO

NGOs decry govt forest giveaways

SALOME ALWENY
KAMPALA

CIVIL society ogarnisations have called upon the international community to intervene in the ongoing giveaways of natural forest reserves to private investors by the government.

The members who gathered at the Advocates Coalition for Environment and Development offices in Kamwokya on Monday, said unless the international community intervenes, the President and his Cabinet will continue giving forest land to private investors, yet the forest reserves are of both local and international importance.

According to Onesmus Mugyenyi, a Research Fellow and manager of the Trade Policy Governance Programme at ACODE, the governments proposal to de-gazette natural forest reserves without a sound reason is largely reflective of a deepening crisis in governance

> The government action to alienate public resources is disrespect of the law

and disrespect for constitutionalism and the rule of law.

"The consistent action by the government to alienate public trust resources in disregard of the law of land is indeed a fundamental problem that must be addressed immediately," he said.

"Changing landuse of the proposed natural forest reserves establishes a questionable and dangerous precedent in the country. It is time for the international community to intervene in this matter."

In 2003, the government signed an agreement to give away 10,000 hectares of land containing natural forest reserves of Bugala Island in Lake Victoria and 20,000 more of the forest reserves on the mainland for the nucleus estate to Bidco Palm Oil Company for growing palm oil trees.

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting of August 9 show that the government has so far given out 6,519 hectares of land in

Bugala. Recently, the government directed the National Forestry Authority to give out 7,100 hectares of Mabira Central Forest Reserve to the SugarCorporation of Uganda Ltd to grow sugarcane. The action is a repeat of events where the Butamira Forest Reserve in Jinja was successfuly allocated to Kakira Sugar Works amid protests by the tree farmers in Butamira.

The government had also proposed to degazatte part of the Pian Upe Game Reserve in Karamoja and Nakapiripirit districts in favour of M/S Africa Intergrated Company but due to the civil society intervention, the process has been halted.

Mr Mugyenyi said the government is neglecting its international commitments and obligations by giving away forest reserves. Uganda is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The proposed forest giveaways come at a time when the United Nations Environment Programme is calling upon countrys to spare forests since they absorb carbondioxide, a gas feared for fostering climate change.

Forest Governance
Learning kicks off

Progress amongst the country teams

Uganda. High politics have intervened in forest governance over this last year in Uganda. A key forest reserve has already appropriated for private investment and two more are in line, with the President's backing, to be given away in the same way. These are regressive moves in environmental and social terms and will back-fire economically in the long run. They also point to a growing disrespect for governance through had-won law and due process. As professional integrity was taxed to the limit a wave of resignations was seen at the National Forestry Authority (NFA), and FGLG-Uganda has been in combative mode. Convened by the NGO, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) FGLG-Uganda has put much effort into strategies countering moves to allocate some 7,100 ha of Mabira forest reserve to Kakira sugar works for sugar cane plantation and about 4,000 ha of forest reserves on Bugala Islands in Lake Victoria for palm oil production. Policy work and advocacy has focused on gauging awareness and opinion in local communities, preparation of policy briefs, catalysing discussion by the Environment and Natural Resources Sector Working Group, petitioning parliament, engaging donors, working with the media, and developing legal action against the government.

Following a brief by ACODE to the parliamentary committee on environment and natural resources, parliament issued a statement halting forest alienation insisting that any move to degazzette or otherwise alienate protected areas must be done with the sanction of parliament. The Solicitor General and deputy Attorney General were also actively engaged with. Working with various other legal practitioners ACODE has sought a court injunction to prevent the reserve alienations. Donors were also briefed, including the European Union, Norwegian Embassy, USAID, and the Embassy of Germany, and a donor group advised government against the alienations. FGLG-Uganda has been active in the press – writing articles for the print media, holding press briefings and sharing information with journalists. Some 15 articles in the Uganda and East African press and IslamOnLine, as well as radio and on-line interviews for the BBC and Voice of America have involved FGLG and IIED participants. IIED with ACODE and others are also questioning the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil is being prepared – since international members of the roundtable are involved in the proposed Bugala project.

In addition to the work to prevent the forest give-aways, FGLG Uganda also prepared a policy briefing paper on the marginalization of the environment and natural resources sector in government spending vis-à-vis other productive sectors of the economy and calling for redress of this situation. This brief was shared with all members of parliament. The team was also able to do some work on local forest rights issues with community based organizations in Rukungiri and Kabarole districts and with three local co-operative societies - Ihimbo, Kikongi and Nyabubare - in south western Uganda to assist them recover their woodlots in a forest reserve.

> *"Professionalism of members of FGLG-Uganda has been vital in bringing key government people on board and raising government interest."*
> Stephen Khaukha, Uganda

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Cameroon. Following an inception phase starting in 2005, FGLG-Cameroon was initiated in May 2006 and became known as GREG-Forêts or Groupe de Réflexion et d'Etude sur la Gouvernance des Forêts. GREG-Forêts recognizes that, despite significant progress, the prospects for sustainable forest management in Cameroon remain bleak until major governance challenges are overcome. The Government, with donor support, recently adopted the Forest and Environment Sectoral Programme (FESP) to tackle this and in 2006 donors initiated the Forest Governance Facility to

support civil society organizations in their efforts to contribute to FESP. GREG-Forêts aims to contribute by coming up with practical and tactical ways forward based on local realities rather than some idealised norm of how things should be. Methods being used by the team so far include: participatory evidence gathering, dialogue with parliamentarians, and tracking progress made in the sector.

Initial work has focused on a notion of forest governance that suits the team, which forest ecology/use zones to focus on and a working vision for what good forest governance in the chosen zones might look like. Work is now underway on a gap analysis of forest governance in the country. This makes sense as a team exercise since the participants in GREG-Forêts have long and diverse experience. The team will use simple criteria for prioritizing gaps, one of which is already apparent - the governance frameworks which affect small-medium forestry enterprises. A memorandum of understanding between GREG-Forêts and the Forest Governance Facility is also being developed.

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Niger. Three main problems are the focus of attention for FGLG-Niger: Weak participation of civil society in policy making processes; corruption in the forestry sector; and low levels of effective local control over management and use of natural resources. Participants in FGLG-Niger, convened by CRAC-GRN, are key players in establishing a new Rural Development Strategy that recognises the right of local control of forest resources. Work over the last year has produced five policy notes – on aspects of policy content and process, on corruption and on community natural resource management roles. The team has organised several policy events at national and regional level to debate the contents of these notes – with participants from the national commission of rural development, parliament, ministry of environment, and others. These debates have helped identify priority gaps where further research and advocacy work can be effective.

Significant impact is evident from group participants who are government "big hitters" (e.g. the national director of the decentralisation process, the head of the Rural Development Strategy and the national director of environment). They increasingly emphasise participation, inclusion and information transparency – which represents a major shift in the nature of governance. An important target for influence in the coming year continues to be a series of land tenure commissions that also deal with forest governance. The team also intends to support the emergence of space for exchange and action between foresters and decentralised county councils and to carry out a study on Local Conventions for natural resource management and provide.

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Ghana. FGLG-Ghana sees continued crisis in the state forestry sector - badly resourced forestry institutions with underpaid and poorly motivated staff too often succumbing to timber industry patronage and ignoring their statutory duty to conserve Ghana's forest resources and protect its forest communities. Despite useful work by FGLG-Ghana and others which has helped shape the governance reform agenda in Ghana since 2004, logging companies continue to operate without hindrance under illegal concession and lease agreements, and the country continues to lose possibly hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue every year.

> *"The Forest Governance Learning Group has already had impact in Ghana. Its study of the permits regime in forestry 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 correct the permits regime. This is also now a benchmark criterion for multi-donor budget support to Ghana."*
> Kyeretwie Opoku, Ghana

However, there are signs of hope in the new Board of Forestry Commissioners and the government's public announcement of a November 2007 target for concluding negotiations with the European Union on a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). This VPA will provide for regulation of the timber industry through a legality certification scheme.

FGLG-Ghana continues to help shape the VPA process as an opportunity for a participatory review of national forest policy, legislation and institutions. It presses for wide participation, especially of forest-dependent communities, to ensure that the preparation process is credible in addressing the concerns of the marginalised. The team also continues to engage with the locally-focused Forest Voices Project and recognises the growing activism and assertiveness of forest communities over resource management issues. Over the coming year this work will continue and FGLG-Ghana will explore a middle-level professionals ('future leaders') forum, borrowing an approach from Indonesia-FGLG (see below), to push forward the work on illegal logging and forest rights

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South Africa. The old large-scale plantation forestry model in South Africa continues to be pushed into diversification as small-scale tree-growing and service-contracting become viable livelihood options for rural people in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and the Eastern Cape. FGLG-South Africa is convened by the head of the small growers' section of *Forestry South Africa*, and is focused on development and institutionalisation of a small forest enterprise support and development strategy aimed at strengthening and spreading these livelihood options. This involves clarification of agency roles and responsibilities, support for piloting and initial roll-out of initiatives under the strategy, convening small forest enterprise business events, and tactical inputs to key planning processes - notably the National Forest Programme, Provincial Growth and Development Strategies, Integrated Development Plans at district level, and a national Charter for Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment in the Forestry Sector.

Over the last year, situational analyses and stakeholders consultations have generated significant momentum for the strategy. This has involved a good range of players in government at national, provincial and district levels, private enterprise associations and small-enterprise groups. A first framework for the strategy has been produced by FGLG-South Africa and a draft forestry charter has emerged from government. Local government in KZN has been stimulated to explore two new small forest enterprise initiatives and organisations such as Upstart Business Strategies, Fractal Forest Africa and Fakisandla are engaging with the process and helping to design new models of enterprise support. In the coming year work will focus on the development and initial roll-out of the strategy and integration with the charter.

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Mozambique. FGLG-Mozambique takes its cue from progressive provisions in law which have no effective implementation mechanisms. These provisions include: the rule that 50% of fines collected for breach of natural resource management law go back to the people who participated in law enforcement; that 20% of concession taxes go back to the communities resident in those concessions; and the provision for guidelines for consultation between companies and communities. FGLG-Mozambique continues to function as the 'governance branch' of the National Forest Forum, and has also developed an independent website to make available the multiple policy documents and reports that are nowhere else collected and disseminated (http://www.terrafirma.co.mz/modules.php?name=Downloads). Over the last year it has

done effective work to catalyse debate on: timber extraction and use in Cabo Delgado; the influence of Chinese log exporters on the industry; a review of Simple Licence operators in three provinces; and promotion of community structures that work. FGLG-Mozambique has participated in establishing *Amigos da Floresta* – an independent advocacy group to monitor government performance in the forestry sector.

Work has also been carried out on more effective log-tracking systems since illegal logging, combined with deficient law enforcement and related corruption, threaten the sustainability of forestry in Mozambique. This work suggests that an improved system could be based on the current documentation and paint labelling system but with significant revision and unification of procedures and documentation. In future a system based on machine-readable log labelling linked with appropriate IT may be possible but this is some way beyond current capacity in Provincial Forest Bureaus and the companies operating. Third party participation in the auditing process would be another helpful step for legality in the chain of custody. In the coming year a major effort will be put into improving governance frameworks for community and small-medium enterprises in the forest sector.

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Malawi. Following studies on illegality and the forest dependent poor and on local government accountability FGLG-Malawi has campaigned for better forest governance at the National Council for the Environment and sought to raise issues with the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. In early 2006, the team prepared a policy briefing-note on charcoal production that highlighted the current plight of poor people dependent on charcoal for fuel where all production is currently deemed 'illegal'. The team also began a newsletter for district forest officers on governance issues called '*The District Post'*.

Over the last year FGLG-Malawi has worked hard to develop a rigorous analysis of the dynamics of local charcoal enterprises and to focus some of the debate about charcoal production, trade and use on the livelihoods issues rather than an exclusive concern on forest management. Co-financing of the work with the Compass II programme (supported by USAID), and the Improved Forest Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (supported by EU) has helped here, as have growing links to the Ministry of Local Government, Mzuzu University, Malawi College of Forestry and Wildlife and the Malawi Economic Justice Network. It is hoped that in future this work will

> *"FGLG-Malawi realised that the main governance challenge is to influence the way that trees are managed at village level. This means grappling with tenure of both land and trees and the FGLG has come up with an approach focused on communities managing risk."*
> Bright Sibale, Malawi

enable practical options to be pursued rather than ill-informed such as that seen in early 2007 where the army was sent in to police several forest reserves. The charcoal work will continue in the coming year and attention will also turn to reviewing and spreading understanding of what makes for successful small and medium forest enterprises. New approaches to forest product monitoring will also be explored.

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India. 'Governance tactics for forestry enterprise' is the theme being addressed by FGLG-India in its first 18 months, and its focus is on non-timber forest product (NTFP) enterprises – which are collectively a massive sector in India. The key issues are different for different NTFPs, so the team is looking particularly at six common products which are vital ingredients in the livelihood strategies of the forest-dependent poor: bamboo, beedi leaf, mahua, tamarind, sal seed and honey. The team is working principally in the central Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh,

with links to national level issues. These three states all have large forest areas, large tribal areas, significant populations living in poverty, great dependence on NTFPs, conflicts over natural resources, and yet much potential for poverty reduction from improved governance of forest resources.

Team membership includes state Forest Department officials, individuals from research and advocacy groups representing forest people's rights, specialists in NTFP and enterprise policy and national level government officials. It aims to identify gaps in information and to develop strategies for improving NTFP enterprise governance. A synthesis of existing information on the governance of NTFP enterprises is under way, including a review of policy and implementation. This synthesis of information will be discussed, along with drafts on the selected NTFP industries, at a national level workshop in May 2007. The team will then produce briefing papers and identify activities targeted at improving governance. A major governance development in 2006 was the approval by the national Parliament of the Forest Rights Act – and team members have begun to engage with rule making processes under this Act.

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Vietnam. FGLG-Vietnam got going during 2006 and its focus is on sharing experience and learning on poverty alleviation through community forestry. While community forestry has been practised for generations in Vietnam, it has recently gained legal recognition by state law (Forest Protection and Development Law, 2004). The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is preparing guidelines to support the implementation of this new law, and will soon launch a Community Forest Management (CFM) pilot programme to test the guidelines, in ten provinces. FGLG-Vietnam will help refine the community forestry guidelines by complementing the work of the CFM pilot programme with policy proposals based on concrete examples both of how CFM works at the local level and of what benefit sharing arrangements have been applied in existing community forestry, whether through projects or traditional practices. The work is focused in two provinces: Thua Thien Hue and Dak Lak – in the central region and the more southerly central highlands region respectively – the former involved in the CFM pilot programme, the latter not.

Convened by an independent researcher into forest livelihoods, governance, devolution and poverty alleviation – the team also comprises individuals from MARD's legal department and those involved in the formulation of the CFM guidelines, as well as two or three individuals from each province. The results of the team's provincial surveys will be presented and discussed at provincial and national level workshops. Starting in late 2007, the second phase will focus on promoting mutual learning among local communities (through cross-site exchange visits and study tours), development of a workable framework that promotes better derivation and distribution of forest benefits, and potentially some action research at pilot sites before bringing all the work together to refine the community forestry guidelines and help work them through the system. It is hoped that it will be possible to push through test findings in this way by ensuring that policy makers in the team are involved throughout.

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Indonesia. Forest-based livelihoods in Indonesia remain threatened by the industrial development priorities of the state and big business, by tensions between central and local government in an era of massive decentralisation, and by poor recognition of community rights and access. On the other hand, space for democratic dialogue and influence continues to grow - civil society is active and vociferous in the forestry sector and there are many multi-stakeholder forums. FGLG-Indonesia does not seek to replicate these forums, but rather to complement them by convening a group comprised largely of government officials who are working towards change – to give them a safe learning environment, outside the NGO spotlight, to discuss controversial issues. It comprises a national group, based in Jakarta, linked to a district group, based in Bungo District, Kendari, South-East Sulawesi.

At national level the team is meeting monthly and in early 2007 began to engage with the new 'Redistribution of Bare Land' programme under the National Land Authority (Bappenas). The team have identified the mix

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Looking for clear heads – FGLG-Indonesia

Participants came from Forestry Planning Regional Offices across Indonesia and the Directorate General of Forestry Planning, Jakarta. During the meeting Agus, the facilitator, invited participants to reflect on their work tasks - their main assignments and associated problems. Group discussion came up with solutions for different regions. Then Agus asked participants to forget all of their jobs and problems, and to play the "zero-mind" game. This aims to get participants to clear their minds – to "wipe the slate clean". Then Agus gave an overview of forestry issues at global, national and local levels. From the position of "zero mind", Agus asked the participants to develop a policy framework for their institutions and head office in Jakarta based on these issues. What happened? They based the policies on their daily tasks and duties, not on these pressing issues. When asked to reflect on this, participants observed that they were so strongly integrated into an established system, that it was almost impossible to have a clear perspective.

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of promise and threat to rural people's access to land in this programme. In Bungo, the team held a 2-day workshop for 22 participants in December 2006 at which all Heads of Offices of local government joined the group. One of the pressing issues in Bungo is the development of palm oil plantations and team members from the Center for International Forestry Research facilitated a process in one village through which villagers can weigh up the pros and cons of getting involved in a company-led palm oil scheme.

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Cross-country initiatives

Connecting different contexts and players in forest governance across countries is a key function of the Forest Governance Learning Group. This section describes some of the main activities over the last year.

Social justice in forestry – learning event. Learning events bringing the country teams together are crucial to the Group's work. An FGLG learning event was held in Uganda in the last week of November 2006. It focused on how to make the law work better for social justice in forestry. This emerged from a widely shared perception within the Group that the need to secure justice in decision-making about trees and forests is now the primary challenge for sustainability in many places. The objective was to share experience and ideas on this theme and to sharpen FGLG country team plans for effective work. Some 47 participants took part, including roughly three from each country team plus staff from IIED, Savcor, LTS International, Global Witness and several Ugandan institutions.

Notions of social justice in forestry were examined at the learning event and the work of the country teams to influence and change law and legal systems was explored. Tactics that have proven useful were discussed and further tactics in several key areas were developed: legal awareness and local rights; capacity for enforcement of 'good law'; engaging with the private sector; and policy advocacy. Finally, ideas from the sessions over the three days were pulled together in plans for sharpening and enriching the work of each of the country teams.

The work showed that FGLG country teams now have notable *strengths* and can open up significant *opportunities* for work on legal systems:
- ❑ Flexibility to make and use political space
- ❑ Commitment, confidence and the beginning of impact
- ❑ Some good existing laws, and openings for broader democratic reform
- ❑ Potential to shift whole governance debates e.g. from enforcement to justice

But the country teams also have *weaknesses* and face considerable *threats*:
- ❑ Progress is insecure, fragile and sometimes invisible
- ❑ Law is blunt, equivocal, contradictory
- ❑ Legal systems tend to protect existing power
- ❑ The net result can be all talk and no action

> *"This is the first time we have had experience of the African context – I feel excited about what I have learnt. We need to build a lasting relationship through our communications from now on. I am going home with a feeling of greater strength; we are not just a small group banging our heads on this work - there are many others like us. The feeling of solidarity cannot be measured but it will be there in the heart."* Dasigi Suryakumari, India

FGLG therefore needs to be realistic about its aspirations to change legal systems for the better. It needs to assume long term strategy, work tactically, seize opportunity and accept control where it is offered, and aim for change not just to laws but to their sub-systems and processes by which they work (or fail to work).

Following the learning event, the FGLG country team work plans are being modified and updated, and these will be posted on the website in the first quarter of 2007. The aim of all in the course of 2007 is to continuously sharpen tactics to have as much impact as possible on forest governance. The full report of the learning event – with links to all the presentations and background reports and materials - is downloadable from:
http://www.iied.org/NR/forestry/documents/FGLGlearningeventUgandaReport_000.pdf.
The November 2006 learning event is thought of as the first of three in an annual series on social justice in forestry, the next of which is tentatively planned for November 2007.

'Governance gossip'. In addition to their quarterly reports, documenting the progress and process of FGLG work, convenors of the country teams have started to be systematic about producing short monthly emails to their FGLG colleagues recording 'governance gossip' - incidents, breakthroughs, set-backs, comings and goings of key players, quotes, anecdotes and emerging issues.

International networking. Building and maintaining a network of interested parties internationally is a key part of this initiative. A range of actions have been taken to continue developing alliances and make the most of FGLG work:

- ❑ Cooperation internationally, and in particular countries, is being pursued with several key related initiatives contributing to FLEGT funded by the EC:
    - o World Conservation Union (IUCN). *Strengthening voices for better choices: enhancing forest governance in six key tropical forest countries in Asia, Africa and South America*. Collaboration in Ghana and Vietnam in particular
    - o Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). *Forest and trade networks for legal and sustainable forest management in Africa and Asia*. Collaboration in Ghana, Cameroon, Indonesia and Vietnam in particular
    - o Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA). *Improving governance of forest resources and reducing illegal logging and associated trade with full civil society participation in East Asia.* Collaboration in Indonesia and Vietnam in particular
    - o Overseas Development Institute (ODI). *The VERIFOR project: institutional options for verifying legality in the forest sector.* Collaboration in Cameroon and Ghana in particular
    - o Tropical Forest Trust (TFT). *Timber Trade Action Plan for Good Governance in Tropical Forestry*. Collaboration in Cameroon, Ghana and Indonesia in particular
    - o European Forest Institute (EFI) *Technical assistance to support Voluntary Partnership Agreements*. Collaboration in Cameroon, Ghana and Indonesia in particular
- ❑ Cooperation continues to develop with: CIFOR; the World Bank on FLEG processes; Intercooperation on AFLEG; CARE-International; and FAO's Nfp Facility
- ❑ Information sharing and mutual participation in events with the Rights and Resources Initiative, the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group and The Forests Dialogue
- ❑ Inputs to the European FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement process and AFLEG follow-up continue to be made in particular by FGLG-Ghana and IIED
- ❑ In the last year, reports and papers on FGLG findings have been aired in: two Illegal Logging meetings at Chatham House in UK; UK DFID; Netherlands DGIS; IIED-donor dialogue; Small-medium forest enterprise meeting, Turrialba, Costa Rica; Forestry Professional Coordinating Group in UK; Forestry Investment Forums in Cancun, Mexico and Pietermaritzburg, South Africa; The Forest Dialogue poverty-forestry dialogue in South Africa; Poverty and forestry conference in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; IIED Africa regional advisory panel in Ghana; a forum on environmental governance in Oslo, Norway; and a report on the impacts of forest concessions by the Rainforest Foundation and Forests Monitor.

Policy research, tools and advocacy outputs

Over the last year, various new policy research outputs and tools have been produced which complement those previously developed (some 20 research outputs and tools had been produced by early 2006 - a CD-Rom is available and will be updated). In addition, various articles in the press have been generated – particularly in Uganda. These outputs are listed below:

Policy research and tools (arranged alphabetically)

- Bose, S., Lal, P., Pareek, P.S., Verma, M. and Saigal, S. 2006. *Forest-based assiociations in India: an overview*. IIED Small and medium Forest Enterprise Series No.18, IIED, London [not funded in this initiative but linked to FGLG]
- Bukula, S. and Memani, M. 2006. *Speaking with one voice: the role of small and medium growers' associations in driving change in the South African forest sector*. IIED Small and medium Forest Enterprise Series No.17, IIED, London [not funded in this initiative but linked to FGLG]
- FGLG-Malawi. 2006. *Sustainable charcoal production by and for local communities*. Forest Governance Learning Group Malawi, Policy Briefing Note No.1, Lilongwe, Malawi
- FGLG-Malawi. *The District Post: an independent Malawi newsletter on better forest governance*. April–June 2006, No.1. Forest Governance Learning Group Malawi, Lilongwe, Malawi
- GAGRF Niger. 2006. *Analysis of the institutional framework regulating natural resource management in Niger* [in French]. Groupe d'Apprentissage sur la Gouvernance des Ressources Forestières, Zinder, Niger
- GAGRF Niger. 2006. *Analysis of the legislative guide in Niger* [in French]. Groupe d'Apprentissage sur la Gouvernance des Ressources Forestières, Zinder, Niger
- GAGRF Niger. 2006. *Corruption and illegal practices in the forest sector/rural firewood areas in Niger* [in French]. Groupe d'Apprentissage sur la Gouvernance des Ressources Forestières, Zinder, Niger
- GAGRF Niger. 2006. *The "4 Rs" of community-based forest management in Niger* [in French]. Groupe d'Apprentissage sur la Gouvernance des Ressources Forestières, Zinder, Niger
- GAGRF Niger. 2006. *Design process of the National Forest Programme in Niger* [in French]. Groupe d'Apprentissage sur la Gouvernance des Ressources Forestières, Zinder, Niger
- Geller, S., Abbot, P. and Ngubane, S. 2006. *Policy and institutional mapping of SME support relevant for the formulation of South Africa's small forest enterprises support policy*. Forest Governance Learning Group-South Africa, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
- IIED. 2006. *Environmental governance: implications for donors from the practice of governance in agriculture, forestry and urban development*. Prepared by the International Institute for Environment and Development for the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), IIED, London [draft report not funded in this initiative but drawing on FGLG findings]
- Kazoora, C., Acworth, J., Tondo, C. and Kazungu, B. 2006. *Forest-based associations as drivers for sustainable development in Uganda*. IIED Small and medium Forest Enterprise Series No.15, IIED, London [not funded in this initiative but linked to FGLG]
- Macqueen, D. 2007. *Governance towards responsible forest business: guidance on different types of forest business and the ethics to which they gravitate*. Small and Medium Forest Enterprise Series No.20, IIED, London
- Mayers, J. 2007. 'Political sustainability: governance and transparency'. In: *Concessions to poverty: the environmental, social and economic impacts of industrial logging concessions in Africa's rainforests*. Edited by Counsell, S., Long,

C., and Wilson, S. Rainforest Foundation and Forests Monitor, London [not funded in this initiative but drawing on FGLG findings]

- Mugyenyi, O. and Twesigye, B. 2006. 'Marginalisation of the environment and natural resources sector: the roots of economic crisis and poverty. A policy memorandum to the 8th Parliament during the budget debate for Financial Year 2006/07'. *ACODE Policy Briefing Paper No.*14, Kampala, Uganda
- Ngubane, S. 2007. *Outline structure for Small Forest Enterprise Support and Development Strategy: discussion paper*. Forest Governance Learning Group-South Africa, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
- Norfolk, S. and Ribeiro, V. 2007. *Case study of timber production and its impacts in Cabo Delgado province* [in Portuguese]. Forest Governance Learning Group-Mozambique, Maputo, Mozambique
- Norjamäki, I., Salmi, J., Bila, A., Muhate, A., and Vicente, P. 2007. *Justification for Timber Tracking System Development in Mozambique*. Savcor Indufor Oy and Forest Governance Learning Group-Mozambique, Maputo, Mozambique
- Opoku, K. 2006. *Access to law*. Presentation to the FGLG learning event on Social Justice in Forestry, Uganda, November 2006. IIED, London
- Scotcher, J.S.B. 2006. *Environmental laws and their impacts on small forest enterprises in South Africa*. ForestLore Consulting for Forest Governance Learning Group-South Africa, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Press articles (arranged chronologically)

- New Vision (Uganda) Proposed land use change of part of Mabira forest reserve: the genesis of the controversy. 15-Nov-06
- The Monitor (Uganda) *Museveni, ULC acting like real estate agencies.* 18-Nov-06
- The Monitor (Uganda) *Forest experts visit Mabira*. 03-Dec-06
- The Monitor (Uganda) *NGOs decry govt forest giveaways*. 13-Dec-06
- The Monitor (Uganda) *Environmentalists to sue govt over Bugala*. 13-Dec-06
- IIED (UK) *Planned carve-up of Uganda's protected forests sparks mass resignation*. 14-Dec-06
  http://www.iied.org/mediaroom/releases/061214Ugandaforests.html
- The Monitor (Uganda) *Uganda warned over forestland giveaways*. 14-Dec-06
  http://www.monitor.co.ug/news/news12141.php
- AllAfrica.com (United States) *Uganda warned over forestland giveaways*. 14-Dec-06 http://allafrica.com/stories/200612131039.html
- The East African (Kenya) *Dishing out Uganda's forests*. 01-Jan-07
  http://www.nationmedia.com/eastafrican/current/Magazine/Magazine010120071.htm
- AllAfrica.com (United States) *Dishing out Uganda's forests*. 01-Jan-07
  http://allafrica.com/stories/200701020627.html&cid=0&ei=4FGbRbnLL5P2oALY1Z2-DA
- The Monitor (Uganda) *Forest Giveaways Must Be Checked*. 02-Jan-07
  http://www.monitor.co.ug/oped/oped01023.php
- AllAfrica.com (United States) *Uganda: Forest Giveaways Must Be Checked*. 02-Jan-07 http://allafrica.com/stories/200701020903.html
- The Monitor (Uganda) *MPs write to Speaker on forest saga*. 12-Jan-07
- The Monitor (Uganda) *Sue government over deforestation*. 23-Jan-07
- IslamOnline (Egypt) *A forest in danger*. 01-Feb-07 http://tinyurl.com/2dq6k5

Comments, links and criticisms are actively sought – please get in touch.

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