

## **First Draft National Forest Stewardship Standard for Uganda endorsed by the SDG for further consultations and inputs**

Uganda embarked on developing a National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) for responsible forest management based on the global Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) principles, criteria and international generic indicators. The National Standard is being developed by the Forestry Standards Development Group – Uganda (SDG-Uganda). The National Standard will provide a yardstick for responsible forest management in Uganda, and a mechanism through which progress in responsible forest management by all responsible bodies can be independently gauged, and if desired, through which forest management units can be certified under the FSC Forest Stewardship Scheme. The FSC is an independent, not for profit, non-government organization established to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. FSC is a membership organization managed through a 3 chamber system (social, environmental and economic). The FSC forest certification process is based on internationally agreed principles, criteria and indicators. <https://ic.fsc.org>

The Uganda Standards Development Group (SDG) – called SDG Uganda – has been participating in the world wide process of developing International Generic Indicators (IGIs) which National Initiatives can use in developing their National Forest Stewardship Standards (NFSS). Alongside this international process, SDG Uganda has also been developing the country's NFSS through a consultative process, keeping in step with the changing Drafts of the IGIs. A summary report of the country process for development of the NFSS so far is attached for more information. The final IGIs document was finally approved in March 2015 and published on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015, this paved way for Uganda to also finalize her NFSS. The SDG therefore organized a retreat on 26-28<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at Hotel Paradise in Jinja as part of the activities in the process of preparing the formal First Draft of the NFSS.

The retreat specifically aimed at:

- × Reaching final agreement on the interpretation of Scale, Intensity and Risk (SIR) in the Ugandan context
- × Reaching final agreement on the translation of FSC High Conservation Values (HCVs) into the Ugandan context
- × Alignment of the Draft zero NFSS with the published IGIs and filling in any gaps that might still exist
- × Developing a roadmap that will lead to the submission of the formal Draft 1 NFSS and subsequent steps that will lead to submission of the pre-approval Draft NFSS to FSC for final approval.

The SDG in the 3 chambers of Economic, Social and Environment unanimously agreed on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015 to submit the First Draft National Forest standard to the FSC that has been aligned to the approved International generic indicators (IGIs) and SIRS among other FSC set parameters for Forest certification. It's against this background that the SDG seeks your support to share, consult and give feedback on the Uganda National Forest Stewardship Standard in the on-going consultative process with stakeholders and interest groups. You are encouraged to upload it on your websites and also share it with others within your networks through email.

Comments and any other feedback on the First Draft NFSS should be sent to the following emails: [envalert@envalert.org](mailto:envalert@envalert.org) or [pm@envalert.org](mailto:pm@envalert.org) with a copy to [steveamooti@gmail.com](mailto:steveamooti@gmail.com) and [Stephen.khaukha@gmail.com](mailto:Stephen.khaukha@gmail.com)

Further clarifications on this initiative can be solicited through the following Telephone: 0414510547

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