



National Stakeholder's Dialogue for Development of the National Roadmap for advancing Implementation of the Uganda National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS).

27th March 2019 Hotel Africana, Kampala.

Activity Popular Report.

Compiled By Environmental Alert, Secretariat for the SDG Uganda



Acknowledgments

Environmental Alert extends great appreciation to the Forest Stewardship Council¹ and WWF-Uganda Country Office for their financial and technical support towards the organization of the dialogue that was held on 27th March 2019 at Hotel Africana.

We are also very thankful to the facilitators during the dialogue for development of this roadmap. To mention but a few are; Dr. Joshua Zake, Dr. Clement Okia, Mr. Gaster Kiyingi, Mr. Stephen Nsita, Mr. Bob Kazungu, Dr. Harrison Kojwang, Ms. Anna Agasha, Mr. Patrick Mugenyi, Ms. Rose Kahwa and Mr. Denis Kavuma. Special Appreciation goes to our dedicated staff who worked tirelessly to coordinate the process. Notably these are Mr. Kayiita Jolly and Ms. Ephrance Nakiyingi.

Environmental Alert² is also grateful to all the members of the Standard Development Group (SDG)-Uganda³, Ministry of Water and Environment whose hard work, dedication and patriotism led to the successful development of the NFSS, Uganda.

We are also very appreciative to all Participants from the Standards Development Group, National Consultative Forum, Academia, Private Sector, ministries, departments, agencies, local Governments and media first for honoring the invitations and then for deliberating very fruitfully. Their interest and enthusiasm led to the development of this road map.

¹ Further information about FSC is in Box 1.

² Further information about Environmental Alert is in Box 1.

³ Further information about the SDG-Uganda is in Box 1.

1.0 Introduction

This is a popular version of the report from the National Stakeholders' Dialogue for Development of the National Roadmap for advancing Implementation of the Uganda National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS). The dialogue was organized by Environmental Alert, the Secretariat for the Standard Development Group (SDG) Uganda under the Umbrella of UFWG in partnership with MWE and with support from WWF-UJO and Forest Stewardship Council.

This dialogue was held on 27th March, 2019 at Hotel Africana in Kampala. The dialogue was attended by 40 participants (8 female and 32 male) who represented members of the SDG-Uganda, representatives from the Academia, MWE, local government, Civil Society, Media among others

The main purpose of the dialogue was to engage with all sector stakeholders to deliberate and develop a roadmap for supporting the implementation or operationalization of Uganda's NFSS. Uganda.

The dialogue was conducted using highly interactive and participatory approaches which allowed free sharing of information, knowledge and ideas among the participants.

2.0 Background

Recently Uganda's NFSS was approved and launched by the FSC and the MWE on 27th April 2018 and 6th June 2018, respectively. It became effective since 1st September 2018. This was considered a great achievement as it positions Uganda as the 1st and 8th country in Africa and the world respectively to prepare a NFSS according to version 5 of the FSC Principles and Criteria.

Notable is that the NFSS development process in Uganda started in 2013. The process involved highly consultative and active participation of various stakeholders based on their mandates, roles and responsibilities including both the duty

bearers and rights holders. It was guided by the FSC principles and procedures in this respect. The process was led by the SDG-Uganda which comprised of members selected from the NFSS National Consultative Forum Members (i.e. forestry sector stakeholders) categorized based on the three chambers of Environment, Social and Economic. . The SDG-Uganda then selected their leadership comprising of a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to ensure that the process was in agreement with all the FSC requirements and principles. They were regularly and routinely supported by the SDG-Uganda Secretariat hosted at Environmental Alert. The Secretariat mobilized and coordinated stakeholder participation in the process. Besides, working with partners, they mobilized resources to support implementation of the agreed actions as part of the process. This forum provided space at the national levels for consultation and soliciting stakeholder's views and concerns on several drafts of the NFSS as part of the processes.

The process in Uganda—from inception up to completion—was supported and funded through contributions by several partners namely: - *WWF-Uganda Country Office, Environmental Alert, Care International in Uganda, Global woods, Forest Stewardship Council, SDG-Uganda members, Uganda Timber Growers Association, Havilah Company limited, the Forest Sector Support Department, The Ministry of Water and Environment, and Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda.*

The Standard was approved and officially launched by the FSC Director General Kim Carstensen and the Honorable Minister for Water and Environment of the Republic of Uganda, Mr. Sam Cheptoris, who congratulated FSC and the SDG for developing the standard and pledged the government's support to ensure its implementation. The standard came into usage effective 1st September, 2018.

Implementation of the standard is already ongoing in the private sector particularly by the timber plantation companies. Others like the

Uganda Timber Growers Association in collaboration with the WWF-UCO and technical support from FSC are applying the standard to inform group certification process by smallholders.

Albeit the operationalization, it was thought important to have an implementation roadmap for the NFSS with a more structured approach and based on key stakeholders information and participation. It is on this basis, therefore, that FSC and WWF UCO provided financial support to Environmental Alert—the host for the SDG-Uganda Secretariat—to organize and hold a one day National stakeholder’s dialogue to reflect on practical modalities to advance structured popularization and implementation of the Uganda NFSS.

2.1 Objectives of the NFSS National Stakeholders’ Dialogue

The main objective of the dialogue was to meet with all sector stakeholders to discuss and develop a roadmap to support operationalization of the NFSS⁴.

Specifically, the dialogue aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- a) Create awareness about the FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard processes and their role in promoting responsible forest management
- b) Develop a roadmap for structured implementation of the Uganda NFSS based on the roles and mandates of the key duty bearers (Ministries, Departments and Authorities).

2.2 Dialogue Participants

The dialogue was attended by 40 participants (8 female and 32 male) (see annex 2) who included members of the Standards Development Group-Uganda, the National Consultative Forum and representatives of forest dependent/adjacent

communities, interest groups such as Indigenous peoples organization, local governments, MWE, Private forest companies, FSC regional office, academia and media among others

2.3 Dialogue methodology/approach

The dialogue engaged highly interactive and participatory approaches to allow free sharing of information, knowledge and ideas among the participants. Power point presentations, group tasks and plenary discussions were utilized to this end. Furthermore, there was analysis and synthesis of the participant’s feedback and views from group presentations to inform the development of the roadmap.

3.0 Dialogue proceedings

3.1 Session One: Background, Context, and climate setting

3.1.1 Welcome remarks

The remarks were made by Dr. Joshua Zake (PhD) the Executive Director of Environmental Alert. He welcomed the participants to the dialogue, gave a brief background and context of the dialogue, its objectives as well as the expected result(s).

He concluded by highlighting that the NFSS was approved and lunched last year (2018) and became effective on 1st September 2018. However, as a way of kick-starting the formal and structured operationalization of the standard, it was thought timely to develop a roadmap in a more structured approach based on views and suggestions from stakeholders.

⁴ NFSS stands for the National Forest Stewardship Standard. Uganda’s NFSS was approved and launched by the FSC and the Minister of Water and Environment on 27th April 2018 and 6th June 2018, respectively. It became effective since 1st September 2018.

3.1.2 Remarks from the Chairperson UFWG



Mr. Kiyingi giving his remarks during the dialogue

Photo Credit: Environmental Alert

The Chairperson of the UFWG⁵, Mr. Gaster Kiyingi,

Highlighted on the state of forest governance in Uganda, mentioning that the forest sector in the country has had several challenges and it is time for every one to reflect and identify the ways of improving it (sector).

Mr. Kiyingi noted that before the forest sector restructuring, Uganda was one of the best countries among the Common Wealth countries and with that status, it attracted several forest related studies and it acted as a model country where different countries would come to learn from for shaping their forestry sector. This history has since changed for the worse and is characterized by lack of compliance to laws and non-conformity to existing standards, Mr. Kiyingi added.

There have been both good and bad days for the forestry sector, but the current status needs a paradigm change in management. With the operationalization of the NFSS, the sector stands a chance to recover if pursued collectively.

⁵ UFWG, is a network of individuals and associations that share a common goal of ensuring evidence-based advocacy in the management of forests in Uganda. Further information about UFWG is in Box 1.

Private forest establishments (plantations) and agroforestry initiatives are currently on the rise potentially a sign that the population has realized the need to regenerate the forestry estate. Global Woods, New Forest Company, Green Resources and Uganda Timber Growers Association are certified, and the sector is proud of them, however, there is also a task of enlisting (enticing and elevate) more small scale tree growers into the certification process with the right incentives.

3.1.3 Remarks from the Chairperson SDG Uganda

Dr. Okia further shared that the process of developing the NFSS was highly consultative and involved active participation of various key stakeholders putting in consideration their mandates, roles and responsibilities (including both the duty bearers and rights holders). The process was guided by the FSC principles and procedures. It was a lengthy process with back and forth engagements with FSC.

A detailed presentation is available on the link; <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MhLLF9AGZKG94ssd-Kg1V8R4WvYwEOtq/view?usp=sharing>

3.1.4 Key note address: The Role of FSC in Promoting Responsible Forest Management through National Standards development.



Dr. Harrison giving a Key note address during the dialogue at Hotel Africana

Photo Credit: Environmental Alert

The key note presentation was delivered by Dr. Harrison Kojwang, the FSC Regional Director for Africa. He commenced his presentation with an

overview of Africa in terms of current forest cover, estimated annual forest loss and production of FSC certified products, among others. He highlighted that Africa's forest cover currently stands at 23% (i.e. +600 million ha's Classified as Forest Cover and +160 million ha's Designated as Production Forest) with only 5% of Production Forest being FSC certified

He clearly highlighted that FSC is the world's most trusted Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) solution to deliver positive impacts for the forests, markets, and people – both presently and in the future. FSC provides an internationally recognised certification scheme to ensure the responsible management of the world's forests, he added. Dr. Kojwang also explained the 10 FSC principles of forest management and the relevance of national standards to environmental, social and economic safeguards. He emphasized that FSC's duty is to always make sure decision-making is chamber balanced.

He finalized with an experience from Gabon, where the president made a directive that by 2022, all forest holders must be certified. This was a policy statement that the SDG members can consider lobbying for in Uganda.

A detailed presentation for more information is available on the link; <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nL6JJKGer7JLv9ILkoRoVrzPwbLtmjV3/view?usp=sharing>

3.1.5 Official Opening remarks.



Mr. Bob Kazungu giving official opening remarks at Hotel Africana

Photo Credit: Environmental Alert

Mr. Bob Kazungu from the Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD) represented the Commissioner FSSD and officially opened the dialogue.

In his remarks, Mr. Kazungu mentioned that Uganda has got a very high demand for wood even when its afforestation initiatives do not match the demand. Uganda's forest cover decreased from 24% in 1990 to around 8% in 2017. In effort to address this trend, the government has made several commitments both at national and international levels. Hence, there are efforts to get the forest cover to 18% by 2020, 21% by 2030 and return to 24% of 1990 by 2040. These commitments are clearly highlighted in the NDPII and Vision 2040. The 2014 government commitment to restore 2.5 million Hectares by 2025. These ambitious commitments require the country to operate in a business-un-usual manner.

Mr Kazungu further added that despite government appreciating and recognising that FSC certification is voluntary, there are ongoing negotiations to incorporate FSC principles into policies. The standard will also be used in routine government programs to monitor performance. There are already private companies that are certified, and government appreciates them immensely. The Ministry is also working towards a timeline to interest all government institutions

(especially PPDA) in procuring certified forest goods such as timber among others.

3.1.6 A brief on the Standard Development Process for Uganda



Dr Joshua Zake (PhD), giving a brief on the brief on the Standard Development Process for Uganda at Hotel Africana

Photo Credit: Environmental Alert

Dr Joshua Zake (PhD), The Executive Director of Environmental Alert delivered the presentation. The presentation highlighted in detailed, the process for development of the NFSS, the key results of the process, key lessons learnt and key emerging issues (challenges and opportunities) as well as the future outlook.

He indicated that the process for developing the NFSS was based on the FSC Principles and the international generic indicators that were customized to meet Uganda's national context and requirements.

Key results achieved during the process were the successful formation of the National Consultative Forum and the Standards Development Group-Uganda as well as approval of the standard by the FSC in 2018 and its launch by the Minister of Water and Environment in June 2018.

A detailed presentation is available on the link below;

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15OdHS5ka2BkD2JXg9iAVjT3JAjhVK18g/view?usp=sharing>

3.1.7 The linkage between the Uganda NFSS to the existing Forest policy and legal framework; Key provisions, applications and opportunities for the NFSS for Uganda.

Mr Bob Kazungu delivered the presentation on behalf of Ms. Margret Adata, the Commissioner-FSSD. The presentation aimed at enhancing participants' understanding of the applicability of the standard from a Public policy perspective.

His presentation provided a background of the forest cover in Uganda, the deforestation trends and the drivers of the observed change. As a way of reversing the above trends, there's need for sustainable forest management which FSC encourages, he remarked. He further added that all the policy frameworks⁶ in the country are quite strong on the issue of certification and have clear provisions to this effect.

He also shared that the ministry plans to use the NFSS as a yardstick for forest management and compliance in SFM for both small holders and commercial tree growers as well as being used as a Standard by FSC accredited Certification Bodies (CBs) to evaluate forest management practices at forest management unit.

He concluded by sharing the existing opportunities for furthering the NFSS some of which included: the on-going Forestry Policy review process; existing forestry projects like Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS), Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation + and Farm Income Enhancement and Forest Conservation (FIEFOC) 2 which can immediately utilize the standard.

A detailed presentation is available on the link;

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15OdHS5ka2BkD2JXg9iAVjT3JAjhVK18g/view?usp=sharing>

⁶ National Forestry Policy, 2001, National Forestry and tree planting act, 2003 and the National Forestry and Tree Planting Regulations, 2016

3.1.8 Examples of key cases that are operationalizing the Uganda NFSS to bring out lessons and experiences.

Key cases were shared by Ms. Rose Kahwa of Global Woods; Mr. Denis Kavuma, General Manager; Uganda Timber Growers Association; and Mr. *Patrick Mugenyi* the Executive Director of the New Forests Company. The above mentioned companies already applied the NFSS and shared their experiences from its application as detailed in Table 1:

Key issues observed from operationalization of the standard at Global Woods:

- i. The new standard is time consuming as there are new items that require additional consideration.
- ii. The standard makes a lot of referencing which interlinks almost all the indicators.
- iii. The standard having annexures as part of the indicators or criteria alters norms of audit because annexures are supposed to be provided as guidance/verifiers. This means the auditor has to go through each one –not sampling.
- iv. The new standard has a lot of detail which can easily lead on to pick a lot of non-compliances

Full presentation is available on the link; https://drive.google.com/file/d/12O_GrqJHahf6X9JpJtHtuEOuqBbbRWnA/view?usp=sharing

3.1.10 Mr Steve Nsita, Consultant at Havilah Company limited

Mr Steve Nsita, a Consultant at Havilah Company limited and Annah Agasha, the FSC Manager delivered the presentation.

Mr Nsita's presentation covered the key considerations in the development of a comprehensive roadmap for the implementation of the NFSS in Uganda. He emphasized how important the NFSS is to Uganda as a country as well as the aims of the roadmap which among others was to set the pace for increasing FSC certification in Uganda.

He further explained to participants the issues to be addressed in the roadmap, roadmap content as well as the issues categorization. The categories included:

- a) Institutional arrangements;
- b) Procedures and guidelines;
- c) Skills development and capacity building in general;
- d) Monitoring use of the NFSS.

He concluded by reiterating to participants that they have a contribution to make towards Uganda's international commitments. Considering that Uganda is the 8th in the world to have the standard approved, there is need to move together to actualize this in practice (*by including it in work plans and budgets*).

A detailed presentation available on link below; https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c89hZTyE6rfla2g7k_0oB3Ljuwyk0SI0/view?usp=sharing

3.1.11 Annah Agasha, FSC Regional Manager

Ms. Annah Agasha affirmed the statement that Uganda is the first country in the African continent to develop and have their NFSS approved and also still the first country in Africa to develop the NFSS roadmap. Therefore no experience on roadmap development from other countries. She, added that in many countries, it is a voluntary process which is moved by some companies/ groups, the state, or individuals.

Her key concerns were that capacity development and awareness in certification are very important. There is thus a need to have a

standardization of the document to ensure that it is user-friendly. One way to achieve this is through simpler versions. The other alternative is to hire experts to calibrate the document down to wordings and meanings in context while running trainings and workshops.

She concluded by indicating that the FSC supports 14 of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, a reason for it to be embraced by all stakeholders.

3.2 Session Two: Reflection and development of road map

3.2.1 Group work session

These were designed to generate participants' inputs to inform development of a roadmap for structured implementation of the standard. Three (3) groups were formed with each group required to clearly define the key issues, strategies required, the responsible person and the realistic timelines to address the identified issues.

3.2.2 Group presentations and plenary discussions

Groups presented and discussed their group work in plenaries using power point presentations. Key issues and strategies from the group presentations were captured and compiled into a draft consolidated national stakeholders' NFSS roadmap that focused addressing the following:

- a) *Institutional Arrangements (Transformation of the SDG and the National Consultative Forum);*
- b) *National Level Procedures and Guidelines;*
- c) *Awareness and general capacity development;*
- d) *Monitoring Use of the NFSS/Periodic Reviews;*
- e) *Market development.*

3.2.3 Key issues discussed during the dialogue

- i. The fate of SDG-Uganda after the approval of the standard which was its primary role.
- ii. The possibility of making adjustments to the standard when issues are identified.
- iii. The ownership of the standard
- iv. The need for a popular (*user friendly*) version of the standard for easier application by managers
- v. The need to engage in advocacy, developing strategic linkages and partnerships with other players in the sector.
- vi. The value of research and documentation during the process to inform planning and other engagements.
- vii. Fund raising?

3.2.4 Key achievements from the national stakeholders' Dialogue

The immediate achievements from the dialogue are indicated hereunder:

Increased awareness and appreciation of the value forest certification and that responsible forest management will contribute socially, economically and environmentally to sustenance of livelihoods and overall development of the country.

The dialogue facilitated development of the draft roadmap for structured implementation of the Uganda NFSS.

The dialogue also provided an opportunity for sector stakeholders to network, interact, and share information and experiences on application of the new standard.

3.2.5 Way forward

These remarks were made by Mr. Gaster Kiyingi. He requested FSC to support the SDG-Uganda in lobbying and advocacy by approaching the high level government offices on behalf of the SDG. For example, FSC can easily obtain an appointment with the president's office—something that would be difficult for the SDG as

a group. FSC can thus influence certain things that the SDG is unable to influence.

He noted that a *follow up meeting will be organized to finalize the consolidated roadmap for implementation of the Uganda NFSS.*

He as well encouraged participants to mainstream NFSS in their work plans and budgets. “Don’t expect special budgets to support implementation of the NFSS” he said. Kindly mainstream and or incorporate it in your ongoing engagements.

3.3 Session Three: Closing

3.3.1 WWF-UCO.

The WWF Programs Conservation Manager Mr. Simon Peter Weredwong, who represented the Country Director thanked the participants for their kind input into the roadmap development process and EA for organizing the dialogue. He pledged and committed WWF-UCO’s continued support towards the process of operationalizing the NFSS at country level.

3.3.2 FSC Regional Office

Dr. Harrison thanked participants for their dedicated efforts towards development of the roadmap. He requested the SDG members to tap into the FSC technical expertise since there is a focal person in Uganda and he himself being just across the border in Nairobi. “Am so proud and contented with the Ugandan group (SDG) because it is so balanced and representative enough to operationalize the NFSS” He added.

4.0 Conclusion

The dialogue was conducted successfully and provided an avenue for stakeholders to share information about the FSC and NFSS for Uganda. It was also a unique platform to share experiences, lessons and key issues from the operationalization of the standard which in turn informed development of a joint roadmap for operationalization of the NFSS.

Table 1: Draft Consolidated Roadmap Framework

Key result/output area	Strategies Required/Practical Action	Who is responsible /Who to take lead?	Potential stakeholder to support financially and technically	Realistic Timeframe for Implementation
A. Institutional Arrangements (Transformation of the SDG and the National Consultative Forum)				
	A.1 Development of the new TORs for the transformation of the SDG-Uganda in the current phase of operationalization of the Uganda NFSS. It was agreed that SDG becomes a semi-formal entity <i>- Leadership and governance structures to be Instituted</i> <i>-host institution for the semi-formal arrangement should be agreed</i>	SDG-Uganda; Uganda Forestry Working Group; Environmental Alert	Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), FSC, WWF-UCO, Care International in Uganda	By December 2019
	A.2 Transformation of the National Consultative Forum in the current phase of operationalization of the Uganda NFSS, The institutional set of the National Consultative Forum be maintained as is i.e. a loose forum, which can be mobilized for engagement when there is need	National Forestry Consultative Forum members, - Secretariat	MWE Environment, WWF-UCO	By December 2019
	A.3 Mainstreaming of the NFSS into all legal and Institutional Frameworks of Government including academia/integrating the provisions of the NFSS in the ongoing policy review for the forestry policy <i>-Advancing FLEGT</i>	MWE, Uganda National Bureau of Standards, Makerere University	Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD), Uganda Revenue Authority,	By December 2019
	A.4 Development of Memorandum of Principles for the transformed SDG	SDG-Uganda Secretariat		By December 2020
	A.5 Development of the MoU between FSC and the Ministry of Water and Environment	FSC; MWE	FSC; MWE	October 2019
B. National Level Procedures and Guidelines				

Key result/output area	Strategies Required/Practical Action	Who is responsible /Who to take lead?	Potential stakeholder to support financially and technically	Realistic Timeframe for Implementation
	B.1 Simplify the NFSS so that the forest manager can use it	SDG-Uganda; Uganda Forest Working Group	FSC, WWF-UCO	December 2019
	B.2 Develop a communication, awareness and dissemination strategy targeting certification of the various categories of forest owners/ managers - Sign an MoU between FSC and UFWG	Uganda Forest Working Group	FSC, FAO, WWF-UCO	By April 2020
	B.3 Identification of sites that qualify to be intact forest landscapes in Uganda	National Forestry Authority; Uganda Wildlife Authority; Uganda Forest Working Group	National Forestry Authority (NFA), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA),	By June 2020
	B.4 Adoption of “A good practice guide for identifying High Conservation Vs across different ecosystems and production systems” developed by HCV Resource Network and FSC	Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD); Ministry of Water and Environment	FSC, FAO, WWF-UCO	By July 2020
	B.5 Conduct a National Risk analysis and the social and environment impact assessment for the standard	FSSD; Ministry of Water and Environment; Uganda Forest Working Group	FSC, FAO, WWF-UCO	By December 2019
	B.6 Develop mechanism for promoting FSC certification in the Eastern African regions	FSSD; Ministry of Water and Environment; SDG-Uganda; Uganda Forest Working Group	WWF-UCO; UNFAO	By February 2020

Key result/output area	Strategies Required/Practical Action	Who is responsible /Who to take lead?	Potential stakeholder to support financially and technically	Realistic Timeframe for Implementation
	B.7 Adoption and domestication of the FSC Chain of Custody certification standard with informed guidance on how they apply to Uganda	FSSD; Ministry of Water and Environment; Uganda Forest Working Group	WWF-UCO; UNFAO	By December 2019
	B.8 Domesticate and implement the FSC ecosystems services procedure	MWE	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); WWF-UCO; UNFAO	By December 2019
Unfavorable operating environment	B.9 Development an advocacy strategy	Uganda Forest Working Group; SDG-Uganda	FSC, UNFAO, WWF, Care International in Uganda	Starting June 2020
C. Targeted institutional capacity building for the transformed SDG-Uganda and other key stakeholders in respect to advancing forest certification in Uganda				
	C.1 Develop and implementation of the institutional capacity development plan	SDG-Uganda; Uganda Forestry Working Group; FSC	FSC, UNFAO, WWF, Care International in Uganda	Starting June 2020
D. Awareness and general capacity development				
	D.1 Responsive and targeted awareness among key stakeholders (including: Local Governments, Universities, Training Colleges) by printing hard copies and conducting targeted dissemination	SDG-Uganda; Uganda Forestry Working Group; FSC	FSC, FAO, WWF-UCO	December 2019
	D.2 Stakeholder mapping and training needs assessment	SDG Secretariat	WWF-UCO	By Dec 2020
	D.3 Development of training programmes, starting with programmes for policy level decision makers, technical advisory service providers, forest managers, and contractors	SDG-Uganda; Uganda Forestry Working Group; FSC	WWF-UCO	By Dec 2020

Key result/output area	Strategies Required/Practical Action	Who is responsible /Who to take lead?	Potential stakeholder to support financially and technically	Realistic Timeframe for Implementation
	D.4 Provide technical advisory/ extension services as needed	FSSD, Uganda Forestry Working Group; FSC		By Dec 2020
	D.5 Training of certification extension agents that can be accredited by CBs and other people who may not be accredited, but have the skill to prepare forest owners/ managers for certification (extension service providers)	FSC	WWF-UCO; UNFAO	By August 2021
	D.6 Establish East Africa regional structures in Uganda to support operationalization of the standard	FSSD, Uganda Forestry Working Group, FSC		By November 2021
	D.7 Creation of demonstration natural forests.	Members of SDG – Uganda and the Uganda Forest Working Group	NFA; UWA;	By 2021
	D.8 Conduct technical backstopping and support to users of the standard	SDG – Uganda members	WWF-UCO	Continuous
E. Monitoring Use of the NFSS/Periodic Reviews				
	E.1 Develop a monitoring unit that should be led by the reformed SDG-Uganda	SDG – Uganda Secretariat		By December 2020
	E.2 Keeping track of how and extent to which the standard is being used to monitor quality of forest management at national and/or institutional level	SDG – Uganda Secretariat	FSC; Commercial Tree Plantation companies; WWF-UCO	By December 2022
	E.3 Developing data bases for monitoring results and a feedback mechanism & linking the institutions involved	SDG – Uganda Secretariat	FSC; Commercial Tree Plantation companies; WWF-UCO	By June 2021
	E.5 Capture and present issues that require review following the FSC procedures and Standards	SDG – Uganda Secretariat	WWF-UCO	By June 2020
F.0 Market development				

Key result/output area	Strategies Required/Practical Action	Who is responsible /Who to take lead?	Potential stakeholder to support financially and technically	Realistic Timeframe for Implementation
	F.1 Target private sector in construction, donor agencies, big corporate companies to buy certified timber	FSC, FSSD, Uganda Timber Grower's Association (UTGA)	WWF-UCO; UNFAO	By December 2020
	F.2 Influence procurements at Public Procurement & Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA), Uganda Local Government Association, Local Governments for legal or certified forest products	SDG-Uganda, Uganda Forestry Working Group; FSC, FSSD	FSC, WWF-UCO	By July 2022
	F.3 Link certified FMUs with export markets for FSC certified products	FSC	WWF-UCO; UNFAO, European Union	By December 2020
	F.4 Certification of UWA for non-traditional products such as tourism, carbon and other non-timber products	FSC	UWA; WWF-UCO	By December 2020
	F.5 Gazettement of market areas/ Traders Associations where certified markets can be sold and or accessed	MWE; UTGA	European Union	By December 2020
	F.6 Establish a virtual online market for certified products	SDG-Uganda Secretariat	UNFAO, European Union	By December 2020
Undertaking study for markets in Uganda, the Eastern Africa Region, and beyond	F.7 Commission of national, regional study of markets	Secretariat	FSC	By December 2019
Establishing quality standards for forest products across the	F.8 Domestication and promotion of the International chain of custody standard	Certified forest companies, NFA, UTGA	Ministry, Certification bodies, FSC	By August 2019

Key result/output area	Strategies Required/Practical Action	Who is responsible /Who to take lead?	Potential stakeholder to support financially and technically	Realistic Timeframe for Implementation
value chain in line with market requirements				
Promotion of forest products (including timber and non-timber)	F.9 Showcasing certified forest products, Lobbying	Certified forest companies, SDG, Secretariat	FSC, Ministry, WWF-UCO, Uganda Forestry Working Group	By December 2019

Annex 1. Participants attendance list for the National Stakeholders' NFSS Dialogue.

No.	Name	Gender	Institution
1.	Patrick Kapello	M	Hope For Humanity
2.	Richard Hamka	M	Teens Uganda
3.	David Walyembo	M	NFA
4.	Kinene Vincent	M	Mubende DLG
5.	Kayiita Jolly	M	Environmental Alert
6.	Simon Weredwong	M	WWF
7.	Bungano Charles	M	FSSDD
8.	Patrick Mugenyi	M	NFC
9.	Gaster Kiyingi	M	Tree Talk Plus
10.	Annah Agasha	F	FSC
11.	Steve Amooti Nsita	M	Havillah Co. Ltd
12.	Clement Okia	M	ICRAF/SDG Chairperson
13.	Mujuni D.B	M	NARO/Vice Chairperson
14.	Dr. Joshua Zake	M	Environmental Alert
15.	Musingwire Jeconious	M	Mbarara DLG
16.	Birungi Winfred	M	Hoima DLG
17.	James Thembo	M	Makerere University
18.	Komakech Isaac	M	KCCA
19.	Paul Adude	M	Daily Monitor
20.	Lydia Nabawanda	F	NBS TV
21.	Salmah Namwanji	F	NBS TV
22.	Ddungu Davis Joel	M	CBS
23.	Kilimbo Thomas	M	NBS TV
24.	Rose Namale	F	Radio One
25.	Judith Nalule	F	Bukedde Print
26.	Chris Semanda	M	BBS Terefayino
27.	Muyingo Joseph	M	Delta TV
28.	Zahra Namuli	F	NBS TV
29.	Levi Etwodu	M	SDG Member
30.	Musisi Daniel	M	Mityana Municipal Council
31.	Kamoga Arafa	M	Environmental Alert
32.	Olike Christopher	M	Kyenjojo DLG
33.	Onzima L. Patrick	M	SDG Member
34.	Kaahwa Rose	F	Global Woods
35.	Oola David D.M	M	Agoro Agu
36.	Ngabirano Richard	M	Buttoma Community
37.	Byamukama Francis	M	Bwindi Eco Children
38.	Martin Asimwe	M	SDG Member
39.	Nakiyingi Ephrance	F	Environmental Alert
40.	Patrick Byakagaba	M	SDG Member/Makerere University

Box 1: About the FSC International; UFWG; SDG-Uganda and Environmental Alert.

About the FSC International

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) is an International multi-stakeholder organization established in 1993 to promote responsible management of the world's forests. Further information about FSC International is available at: <https://ic.fsc.org/en>

About the Uganda Forestry Working Group (UFWG)

UFWG was formed in **2001** to provide a platform where the various stakeholders in forestry sector met and deliberated on and influenced developments in the sector as well as independently monitor implementation of the National Forestry Policy and National Forest Plan. The **UFWG Secretariat** is hosted by **Environmental Alert**.

Vision: The Vision of UFWG is, *'sustainably managed forestry sector contributing to improved livelihoods, national economy and ecological integrity.'*

Mission: The Mission of UFWG is, *'to promote the development of the forestry sector and stimulate all forestry stakeholders to respond appropriately to changes and challenges within the sector.'*

For More Information contact: The Secretariat of the UFWG Network, C/O Environmental Alert, Kabalagala off Ggaba Road, Behind Kirabo Kya Maria Building, P.O. Box 11259, Kampala; Tel:+256414510547; Email: envalert@envalert.org; Website: <http://enr-cso.org/>

About the Forestry Standards Development Group Uganda (SDG-Uganda)

The **SDG-Uganda** comprises of key forestry stakeholders including: *research and academia, civil society, private sector and government ministries, departments and authorities*. These were selected during the national consultative forum, which informed the development of the NFSS for Uganda. The stakeholders are categorized into the social, economic and environment chambers to meet the FSC requirements for stakeholder engagement. The SDG Uganda has 25 members and is certified by FSC International. Its major role was to develop the Uganda NFSS based on the FSC guidelines and principles. This is a role which was delegated to them by the UFWG during the national consultative forum on the Uganda NFSS. The SDG Uganda has a Secretariat, which is currently hosted at Environmental Alert. The role of the secretariat is to mobilize and coordinate stakeholder's participation in the formulation and implementation of the Uganda NFSS.

About Environmental Alert (EA)

EA was founded in **1988** and in the year **2018** marked **30 years** of contribution to improved livelihoods and development in Uganda through several interventions in sustainable agriculture, environment, natural resources management, water, sanitation and hygiene. EA is officially registered with the NGO Board as a Ugandan non-governmental organization, incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. EA is governed by an independent Board that is responsible for providing strategic oversight of the organization including ensuring its integrity as a voluntary service organization.

EA is a *1st prize winner of the Energy globe award for environmental sustainability-2005 under the category, earth.*

EA is a *member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and a Member of The IUCN National Committee for Uganda.*

EA's vision is a, *'Resilient and dignified communities, managing their environment and natural resources sustainably.'*

EA's mission is to, *'advocate for an enabling environment, sustainable natural resources management and food security for targeted communities through empowerment and policy engagement.'*

Program and institutional Components:

- a. *Environment and Natural resources management;*
- b. *Food security and Nutrition;*
- c. *Water, Sanitation and Hygiene;*
- d. *Finance and Administration;*
- e. *Resource mobilization and Investment.*

Scale of Implementation:

EA operates in selected districts for generation of evidence to inform policy engagements on agriculture, environment and natural resources at National and International levels. Currently EA's operations are in over 30 districts across the country. EA undertakes area wide targeted awareness on selected issues in agriculture, environment and natural resources engagements

EA hosts Secretariats for following CSO networks:

- a) *The Network for Civil Society Organizations in Environment & Natural Resources Sector (ENR-CSO Network) - <http://enr-cso.org/>;*
- b) *Uganda Forestry Working Group - <http://ufwg.entalert.org/>;*
- c) *The Standards Development Group (for promotion of responsible Forest Management in Uganda); and*
- d) *Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resources management (PROLINNOVA-Uganda Network) - <http://www.prolinnova.net/uganda>;*
- e) *National Renewable Energy CSO Network.*

Further information about Environmental Alert is available at: <http://entalert.org/>