



Uganda Forest Working Group (UFWG) Implementation Progress – Key highlight (Achievements, Lessons Learnt, Emerging Issues) – 2015 to date and future outlook for the Network!

On Behalf of the UFWG Secretariat, 12th March 2020.

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Outline of the report

1.0 Background about the UFWG

2.0 Key network achievements in respect to governance, leadership and mobilization

3.0 Technical performance report - Achievements, Lessons Learnt, Emerging Issues) – 2015 to date and future outlook moving forward – by the UFWG Secretariat

4.0 Financial report, December 2015 to December 2019 – by the UFWG Secretariat

5.0 Resource mobilization efforts/initiatives

6.0 Future outlook for the UFWG

7.0 Acknowledgements



1.0 Background about the UFWG

- **UFWG** is a network of forestry stakeholders composed of multidisciplinary membership that cuts across several sectors of development. Current members include: *National NGOs, Community Based Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Forest Resource User Associations, Academia and research institutions* as well as individual members engaged in the development and sustainability of the forestry sector in Uganda.
- 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 (NFP). The **UFWG Secretariat** is hosted by **Environmental Alert**.



1.0 Background about the UFWG

- Currently UFWG has **65 members** engaging on various issues in the forestry sub-sector and engaging at different levels of policy implementation including community, local, national and international.
- **UFWG Vision:** *'Uganda's forest resources managed sustainably.'*
- **UFWG Mission:** *'To promote the implementation of the principles of sustainable forest management.'*
- **UFWG Strategic Plan Goal:** *The Goal for this Planning period (2019-2029) is, 'Strengthening Coordination among different sectors involved in land use for sustainable forest resources management.'*



1.0 Background about the UFWG

Strategic Objectives

- a. *To realize the above goal and mission, the following strategic objectives shall guide UFWG business 2019 – 2029 strategic plan:*
- b. *To Influence policy formulation and implementation across key sectors and actors in promotion of sustainable management of forest resources*
- c. *To improve knowledge and adoption of sound forest management practices at national, community and individual*
- d. *To strengthen partnership in promoting of good governance and accountability among key sectors in land use for investment in sustainable forest resources management*
- e. *To strengthen the capacity of UFWG and its members to effectively contribute to sustainable management of forest resources.*



1.0 Background about the UFWG

UFWG core business:

- a. Lobbying and advocacy for enabling sector policies and good governance in the Forestry sub-sector;
- b. Membership mobilization, information sharing and joint monitoring/advocacy;
- c. Networking among members and between the network and other players in Forestry sub-sector.;
Capacity building for the network members.



1.0 Brief background about the UFWG

- The **UFWG** has established **Governance and leadership structures** including:
 - the Annual General Assembly,*
 - the Steering Committee;*
 - UFWG Nodes engagements; and Member's forums.*
- It has a **Memorandum of Principles (2002 and amended in 2012)** that guide its day to day operations.

2.0 Key network achievements in respect to governance, leadership and mobilization



- a. **Strategic engagements** with the Ministry of Water and Environment (through the **Forest Sector Support Department, National Forestry Authority, REDD+ Secretariat**) through which **UFWG members** have made technical/financial contributions in the development of ***National REDD+ Strategy for Uganda; Forest Investment Plan; National Forest Stewardship Standards for Uganda; National Comprehensive Response Plan for Water and Environment; National Development Plan III; Water and Environment Sector Performance reports***); ***Annual Water and Environment Week – 2018 & 2019; National Forest Plan; Performance measurement framework for Water & Environment sector.***
- b. **Resources mobilization and fundraising** to enable the network deliver on its vision and mission statements.
- c. Developed the **UFWG's 10 years strategic plan**, which is due for presentation and approval in this Annual General Meeting – today.
- d. **Mobilization and coordination of the UFWG Members for joint engagements --**
- e. **Growth and outreach of the network** across the country through **UFWG Nodes/platforms-** for instance: *East Acholi Landscape Platform (in Kitgum, Lamwo, Pader & Agago districts); Mount Elgon Stakeholders Forum; Forest CSO platform for improved governance of forest resources in the Greater Virunga Landscape*);
- f. **Members of UFWG have participated in various lobby engagements on key forest governance issues** e.g. *forest give away (Budongo,..); Illegal activities in the forest reserves;...*

2.0 Key network achievements in respect to governance, leadership and mobilization



f) Enhanced Human resources at the UFWG Secretariat hosted at Environmental Alert to support coordination of the network activities.

g) Ability to conduct steering committee meetings as scheduled even during period without strategic funding i.e. 2015-2019.

h) UFWG member's continuous participation in Water and Environment Annual Joint Sector Review, thus in collaboration with the ENR-CSO Network – key emerging issues in the forestry sector have been profiled through documentation, presentation and discussions with alternative recommendations for consideration by the duty bearers. This is available in the *Water and Environment Annual sector performance report; ENR-CSOs annual consolidated performance reports and related position papers, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.*

i) UFWG members actively participated in the CSOs and Networks capacity needs assessment and related plan for advancing knowledge and skills for application of green growth principles and concepts; climate change adaptation and resilience; water/natural resources stewardship principles and concepts.

j) UFWG members have conducted several studies (published in the ENR-CSO annual consolidated performance reports, 2016, 2016, 2017, 2018, & 2019). These provide the information and facts for strengthening the various arguments and recommendations by the network for consideration by the duty bearers at different levels.

k) The evolution of the SDG Uganda as an independent network to support the operationalization of the Uganda National Forest Stewardship Standards. Its secretariat is hosted at Environmental Alert.

2.0 Key Lessons Learnt – 2015 to date



- a. The **strength of UFWG lies in its members**. Hence, there are several opportunities within the members, which should be harnessed and leveraged to contribute towards achievement of the shared goals and aspirations of the respective members through the network as a delivery mechanism.
- b. With **effective coordination and unity among the UFWG members**, a lot can be achieved through structured engagements targeted towards achievement of shared agenda. This provides motivation for attracting external support from development partners.
- c. The **active participation of the respective governance structures of the network based on their mandates, roles and responsibilities** enables the network to keep alive and relevant. This should be upheld to keep the networks focus given its vision and mission statements.
- d. The **sub-regional nodes on forestry/environment and natural resources** provide space for rights holders & duty bearers to openly voice their concerns and interests in the management and use of environment resources.

3.0 Key Emerging (challenges & opportunities) Issues – 2015 to date



Challenges:

- A) Limited resources to effectively fund and implement the UFWG, 2013-16.** For instance, the General Assembly could be held as expected (annually) over the last 4 years;
- B) Consolidating outreach and issues/thematic engagements of the UFWG at the local level** to influence decisions and policy implementation through Local Governments at the local level. This requires adequate resources (both human and financial);
- C) Targeted capacity building (on technical & institutional aspects) for members** towards effective and continues structured joint advocacy engagements at the national and local levels;
- D) Escalating degradation and destruction of ENR e.g.** Uganda's current forest cover stands at **9% reducing from 24% as it was in 1999** (Sector performance report by the MWE 2018). Its not surprising as the **annual forest loss is 250,000 Ha (MWE, 2016)**. ***Recent report by MWE, 2019 indicated a negligible increase of forest cover to 12.2%** In the last 25 years, we have lost 44 per cent of the wetland coverage. The annual wetland loss is 2.5%! (WMD, 2018);

****Wetlands national coverage has reduced from 13% in 1994 to about 8% by 2016.***



3.0 Key Emerging (challenges & opportunities) Issues – 2015 to date

Challenges:

E) Inadequate investment in the Water and Environment sector (now at 5% of the total national budget) resulted into several National Development Plan II targets not being adequately delivered upon by the respective Ministries, Departments and Authorities. Likewise, there is dwindling funding to CSOs in the Forestry sector;

F) Balancing environmental management and development;

--Urban forests & wetlands at risk of conversion due to pressure from industrializations and urbanization;

--Oil exploration and development in the Albertine rift.

G) A large proportion of Uganda (more than 90%) still depending on biomass (using rudimentary techniques) for their energy needs. Per capita energy use still very low and hence high energy poverty!

3.0 Key Emerging (challenges & opportunities) Issues – 2015 to date



Challenges:

H) Increasing influx of refugees greatly impacting on the environment and natural resources in the host communities. This is largely due to high demands for energy *i.e. fuel/charcoal, fire wood; building materials; water*. Situation is worsened because often the preparedness by host communities is inadequate.

I) Increased incidence of climate change impacts yet there is limited preparedness and weak adaptation capacity at community levels.

J) Low youth participation in ENR (forestry inclusive) engagement spaces at both local and national levels. 77% of Uganda's population is dominated by the youth under 30 years of age (UBOS, 2017). The youth organizations need to be mentored to engage in the policy making and implementation spaces at all levels.

K) Inadequate funding for immediate response to emerging forest governance issues at different levels/scales.

3.0 Key Emerging (challenges & opportunities) Issues – 2015 to date



Opportunities:

A) National Environment Management Act, 2018 was approved by Cabinet and endorsed by the President of Uganda;

B) **Several Environment and Natural Resources policies are under review.** Some of these include: *National Environment Management Policy; Energy Policy, Wetlands policy; Forestry policy & law*

C) The development of the **National Development Plan III** – that is focusing on industrial development as the engine to transit Uganda into Middle income status;

D) ***Structured engagement with the Parliamentary committees (on Natural Resources; Climate change) for inputs into the ongoing ENR legislative reviews e.g. Climate change bill, wetlands bill, forestry bill, energy bill;***

E) Uganda's National Forest Stewardship Standard was approved by the **Forest Stewardship Council**. Thus, being the **1st & 8th** FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard in **Africa and Globally**, respectively. Thus, present an opportunity of promoting responsible forest management through forest certification.

3.0 Key Emerging (challenges & opportunities) Issues – 2015 to date



Opportunities:

G) Recently approved **National Bamboo Strategy, (2019)** provides opportunity for promotion of Bamboo as a fast growing tree species with multiple uses (e.g. Charcoal and furniture), thus supporting advancement of the bamboo is key for the sector;

H) Establishment and operationalization of the **National Forestry Forum** – with various sub-forums including: *Research & Training; Agro-forestry & Urban forestry; Forestry Governance; Commercial Forestry*. This initiative is provided for in the ***National Forest and Tree Planting Act, (2003)*** and is ***coordinated by the Forest Sector Support Department;***

I) Ongoing **Uganda Technology Needs Assessment for climate change adaptation targeting Forestry, Agriculture, Water & Energy sectors**. This initiative is coordinated by the *Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation; and Uganda National Council of Science & Technology* - with financial support from the **Global Environment Facility** and executed by **UN Environment**, in collaboration with the **UN Environment DTU (Technical University of Denmark) Partnership Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development (UDP)**.

4.0 The Uganda Forestry Working Group Annual Report Financial report for 2016 - 2019



**UFWG Network Secretariat
C/o Environmental Alert Uganda**

Imperial Royale Hotel, 12th March 2020
by

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UFWG Financial Report: Outline



- Introduction
- Financial analysis
- Challenges
- Opportunities & Issues for consideration

Introduction



- It is with great pleasure that I present these figures at this AGM. I would like to thank all the members for the assistance they have given to the UFWG Secretariat over the years.
- This report summarizes the funds received and spent between 2016 and 2019.
- It's a derived from the audited accounts of Environmental Alert during the period. These are available for more details.

Summary of Funds Received to facilitate UFWG Activities for the Period 2016 - 2019



Year	Member	Development Partner	Amount (UGX)	Totals	Source
2016	Environmental Alert (EA)	WWF 2016	52,029,502	186,908,033	<i>EA audited Accounts</i>
	FSC	FSC 2014	26,829,460		
	EA	FAO	29,139,000		
	EA	IUCN	78,910,071		
2017	EA	WWF- Timber	36,753,274	115,220,474	<i>EA audited Accounts</i>
		IUCN	78,467,200		
2018	EA	CARE- STRENPO	9,430,000	9,430,000	<i>EA audited Accounts</i>
2019	FSC	FSC - NFSS	10,128,900	41,627,800	<i>EA audited Accounts</i>
	EA	WWF- NFSS	15,318,900		
	EA	CARE- STRENPO	16,180,000		
	EA				
				353,186,307	

Income and expenditure analysis



		2016 (audited)	2017 (audited)	2018 (audited)	2019(un audited)
Opening balance			(1,228,634)		350,000
Funds received		186,908,033	115,220,474	9,430,000	41,627,800
Expenditure		188,136,667	113,991,840	9,080,000	32,232,800
Surplus/unutilized		(1,228,634)	-	350,000	9,745,000

Challenges



- Over dependency on Donors for funding of Network activities;
- Inadequate funding to implement all network planned activities.
- Delayed release of funds that affects implementation of activities;
- Absence of membership fees to fund Network activities.

Opportunities:



- a) Membership of approximately 65 organizations can be an avenue for local resource mobilization through subscription
- b) Joint resource mobilization by members

Issues for Consideration

- Introduction of membership and subscription fees.

5.0 Resource mobilization efforts/initiatives



The following are some of the concepts/proposals were developed during the period and submitted to development partners for funding consideration:

A) Raising the Profile of Responsible Public Procurement of Timber through structured engagements with Key duty bearers, stakeholders and the wider public. *Prepared by Environmental Alert in partnership with Tree Talk Plus & Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust to support implementation of the UFWG aspirations. Total Project cost is 406,945,000 UGX, submitted to United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (UNFAO) –Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT);*

B) Timber Marking and Tracking System based on bar code marking. *Prepared by Tree Talk Plus in partnership with Environmental Alert to support implementation of the UFWG aspirations. Total Project cost is 402,430,000 UGX, submitted to UNFAO-FLEGT;*

C) Supporting Forest Restoration in East Acholi Landscape in Northern Uganda (SuFOREA). *Prepared by Environmental Alert to support implementation of the UFWG aspirations. Total Project cost is 100,000 USD, submitted to Germany – Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; and the GIZ;*

D) Advancing effective participation of forest and farm producer's organizations through co-management and responsible forest management approaches in Kenya and Uganda. *Prepared by World Neighbours in partnership with Environmental Alert to support implementation of the UFWG aspirations. Total Project cost is 125,200 USD, submitted to Farm Forestry Facility.*

6.0 Future outlook for the UFWG



A) Consolidating outreach and issues/thematic engagements of the network at the local levels to influence decisions and policy implementation through Local Governments at the local level.

B) Continuously pursue structured engagements with key policy and decision makers at different levels for investment in sustainable Forestry management.

C) Commission studies on resource allocation to Environment and Natural Resources (including Forests) to generate facts to inform policy engagements at the national and local level.

D) Targeted capacity building (on technical & institutional aspects) for UFWG Members towards effective and continues advocacy engagements at the national and local levels.

E) Advance improved information and knowledge management for access and exchange by the members, stakeholders and general public.

6.0 Future outlook for the UFWG



F) Enhanced UFWG membership – mobilization & coordination – Routine Membership Servicing – including the updating of the UFWG member’s data base, Branding of the UFWG;

G) Advance joint resource mobilization for sustainability of the UFWG to deliver on its aspirations as detailed in the network vision and mission statements.

--This will be done through development & consolidating strategic partnerships – for instance – pursuing strategic partnership with Research (*e.g. National Agricultural Research Organization & Academic Institutions (e.g. Makerere University, ...)*); Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Private Sector, United Nations-Agencies (*United Nations Development Program, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, United National Food and Agricultural Organization*)

--Need to link forestry to other emerging mega trends *e.g. climate change, urbanization, biodiversity conservation,*



7.0 Acknowledgements

A) Ministry of Water and Environment;

B) Forest Sector Support Department;

C) National Forestry Authority;

D) National REDD Plus Secretariat

E) Development Partners including:

****Care International in Uganda;***

****Care Denmark;***

****International Union for Conservation of Nature – Uganda Country Office;***

****United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO);***

****Forest Stewardship Council;***

****Danish International Development Agency***

****WWF-Uganda Country Office;***

****World Bank.***



Thank you for listening!!

Asante sana!!