

Uganda Forest Governance Learning Group

Who we are and what we do

Bashir Twesigye, Research Officer, ACODE

Uganda FGLG

- An informal platform of individuals with common values and interest to promote good forest governance
- A part of the Uganda Forest Working Group, a wider community of forest sector stakeholders.
- UFGLG is a special interest group for streamlining the governance architecture, by strengthening the demand and supply sides of governance.

Membership

- Membership of about 15, powered by personal initiative and public interest
- Drawn from academia, media, conservation agencies, parliament and civil society. There is a proposal to expand to non traditional civil society and communities
- Business is informal and off the record.

Method of work

- Small informal group for sharing information and learning
- Membership is by invitation
- Group defines the research agenda and priority activities
- Group links with international partners through blog, email groups, teleconferences, international FGLG learning events

Learning and sharing



Policy memoranda



Petitions

September 2, 2010

Hon. Prof. Apollo Nsubambi
The Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda
Office of the Prime Minister
Postal Building, Yusuf Lule Rd.
P.O. Box 341, Kampala.

Dear Right Hon. Prime Minister Nsubambi,

RE: REQUEST FOR A MEETING ON THE DEEPENDING CRISIS IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES SECTOR

Kindly refer to our letter of July 26, 2010 on behalf of the Uganda Forest Governance Learning Group and your response dated August 10, 2010 under reference ADM 68/01. Thank you very much for responding to our request and your guidance advising us to meet with the Minister for Water and Environment.

Right Hon. Prime Minister, your response reached us after an emergency meeting of stakeholders in the ENR sector which took place on August 25, 2010. In that meeting, members agreed that the crisis of governance in the ENR sector was deepening and goes beyond the sector agencies as it also encompasses the wildlife sub-sector under the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry (MTTI), the fisheries sub-sector under the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and local governments. As you may know the sector is facing major problems including:

- o Insufficient budget allocations
- o Lack of institutional coordination
- o Issues of leadership
- o Institutional governance and corruption

10/20 Spring Road
P.O. Box 70863
Kampala, Uganda
www.nfa.org.ug



Tel: 031-264035/6
041 230365/6
Fax: 041 230368
nfo@nfa.org.ug

NFA/E/01/09

26th August 2009

The Convener
Uganda Forest Governance Learning Group
P.O. Box 20836
Kampala



Dear Mr. Godber Tumushaba

RE: STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH NATIONAL FORESTRY AUTHORITY

The National Forestry Authority (NFA) presents its compliments to you and wishes to refer to the above statement which appeared in The New vision Newspaper of Monday 24th August 2009.

We wish to thank the Forest Governance Learning Group in general and ACODE in particular for the expression of solidarity with us and your message of sympathy to NFA staff and the bereaved families. It was a clear manifestation of your support for the work being done by the law enforcement officers to protect the forest resources in this country. We thank you most sincerely.

Once again NFA avails itself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of its highest consideration and cooperation.

Forests for Prosperity,
Yours sincerely,



Damian B. Akankwasa
Executive Director

CC: Director Corporate Affairs

National

Help NEA officials, govt told

Environmentalists have demanded that the government institutes a special investigation into the state of the country's protected forests and the killing of National Forestry Authority (NFA) officials by forest encroachers, writes **Murcy Nabungu**. According to a press statement sent to *Daily Monitor* on Friday, by the Uganda Forestry Governance Learning Group (UFGLG), at least seven staff of the NFA have been killed in less than a year. UFGLG is a platform for individuals promoting good forestry governance. "The UFGLG is concerned that the government has been unable to create an environment in which its own agencies can operate without undue disruption," read the statement in part.

FGLG Interventions

- FGLG has brought to the public discourse controversial cases of illegal activities, corruption, incompetence and conspiracies to dissipate forest resources

Land use change/ degazzeement



Conflict management



Streamlining regime for charcoal burning



Illegal logging



Community support

- Land rights of ethnic forest communities
- Legal, policy and administrative framework for collaborative forest management
- Benefit sharing regime

Impacts

- Our research informed investigations by the AG, IGG and parliament on the management of NFA
- Provisions in government policies and plans
- Influencing political party manifestoes
- Increased donor funding for the sector – WB and EU
- Increased dialogue on community benefit in forest reserves

Impacts contd.

MUSEVENI BACKS OFF MABIRA



By Our Reporter

Leslie M. Musoke, President Yoweri Museveni has today threatened to withdraw his support for giving a third of Mabira Forest to the Mehta Group to finance the dam project. The President, who recently said he would not be intimidated by anyone in introducing the Mabira forestry project, called Mehta's bid "a waste of time" and said he would not proceed with the proposal unless the World Bank and approved local financial institutions can guarantee the project's success.

The World Bank, according to Philip Musoke, has not yet approved the project but that it would provide US\$ 300 million and guarantee the dam project.

Mehta's bid, project has a long delay, blamed on forest clearance, international politics and a powerful lobby of environmental groups with the International Rivers Network and their allies.

TURN TO PAGE 5

President Tells Mehta Give Away Will Hurt Bujagali Dam Project

Impacts

Govt won't give away Bugala Forest-Mutagamba

Sunday 17th Dec 2003

SALOME ALWENY
BALI, INDONESIA

THE Minister for Water and Environment Maria Mutagamba said Bugala Island Forest Reserve will not be cut down

to pave way for palm oil growing. "We are trying to find alternative land," Ms Mutagamba said.

Bugala Island is about 7km from the western shore of Lake Victoria. It is one of the 84

islands that make Kalangala District. The government had wanted to give part of the forest reserves to Oil Palm Uganda Limited, a subsidiary of Bideco Uganda Limited for palm plantation expansion.

Together we can

