



Proceeding report for the UFWG Annual General Meeting on 30th October 2015, Held at the Grand Imperial Hotel, Kampala.



Members of the UFWG during the AGM, 2015.

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Executive summary

The Uganda Forest Working Group (UFWG) Annual General meeting (AGM) 2015 was organised following a one day Multi-stakeholder engagement meeting on forest tenure in Uganda; which meeting sought to strengthen Governance systems and structures of the Uganda Forest Working Group as one of its objective. The AGM was held on 30th October, 2015 at Grand Imperial Hotel Kampala and was attended by 43 participants (16 females and 27 males). These included members from NGO, CBOS, Academic institutions, research institutions, individual members, Government officials, private sector and other like mind stakeholders.

The AGM served as a platform to share updates on the strategic plan as well as strengthening Governance systems and structures of the Uganda Forest Working Group through election of new steering committee, members.

Basically, the overall output of the AGM was development of key recommendations that will enhance and strengthen the Network. A new steering committee was also elected and inaugurated.

List of Acronyms

AGM	Annual general meeting
CBO	Community based Organisation
CFR	Central forest reserves
CLAs	Communal Land Associations
CODECA	Community Development and conservation Agency
COVOID	Community Volunteer initiative for Development
CSOs	Civil society Organisation
DFS	District forest services
DLB	District land board
DLG	District Local Government
EA	Environmental Alert
ENR	Environment and Natural Resources
ENRCSOs	Environment and Natural Resources Civil society Organisations
FAO	Food and agricultural organisation
FMPs	Forest management plans
FSC	Forest stewardship Council
FSSD	Forest Sector Support Department
MLHUD	Ministry of land housing and urban development
MWE	Ministry of water and environment
NFA	National Forestry Authority
NGO	Non-government organisation
PFO	Private Forest owners
PFs	Private forests
PPDA	Procurement and Public Disposal of Assets
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SP	Strategic Plan
UFWG	Uganda Forestry working group
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenures
WWF	World Wild Fund

1.0 Introduction

The Uganda Forestry Working Group (UFWG) is a network of forestry stakeholders composed of multidisciplinary membership that cuts across several sectors of development. Its membership is composed of from NGO, CBOS, Academic institutions, research institutions, individual members, Government officials, private sector and other like mind stakeholders. The Network is coordinated by Environmental Alert.

In partnership with FAO, FSSD of Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Uganda Forest Working Group (UFWG) is implementing a project 'Enhancing Forest Tenure and Governance in Uganda in selected districts'. This project was designed to secure tenure of private and community forests.

As part of the project activities, a multi-stakeholder engagement meeting was organized and held on 29/10/2015 to sensitize and increase awareness on voluntary guidelines for governance of forest tenure as well paving a way forward for emerging issues in forest tenure, Further, the engagement was meant to also strengthen Governance systems and structures of the Uganda Forest Working Group.

In that regard therefore, following the multi stakeholder meeting, an AGM was organised in order to support establishment of functional governance structures and systems for the UFWG network.

1.1 Welcome Remarks

These were given by the Chairman Mr. Gaster Kiyingi who welcomed members to the AGM and then took them through the meeting programme which was adopted without any changes. In his remarks, he highlighted that the group last held an AGM 3 years back majorly because of financial constraints. He expressed his gratitude to FAO specifically who allowed for the allocation of resources to facilitate the AGM.

The chair thanked member organisations that support the group/ network such as IUCN which has always supported the steering committee, WWF that has been providing resources to implement some of the group activities at the national level, CARE also supports the group through the FOREST Programme that supports the mid-western Uganda. He further went on to appreciate members for participating in the Joint Sector Review.

He extended gratitude to the Ministry of Water and Environment specifically FSSD for the support and cordial relationship in terms of partnership and development of the sector and provision of the necessary critics on policy as well as Partnership in resource mobilisation e.g. the Forest Tenure project.

He also pointed out the increasing visibility of the groups work/ activities at both National and regional level. Success stories in the North where members partner with the government and he noted that more engagement spaces are coming on board because of the united voice of the group.

He however, expressed the dissatisfaction of funds allocated at the District Local level which calls for CSOs to continue advocating for more resources to be given to the district.

In a special way, he thanked the secretariat for the commendable work to coordinate the group and all its activities.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of the deceased members of the group one of which was Ambrose former President of the Uganda Forestry Association.

However it has not been well in terms of finances. There has been a decline in amounts and distribution of resources. He therefore recognised the need for the network to strategically position itself to utilise the little resources effectively. He then wished members fruitful deliberations from the meeting.

1.2 Purpose of the AGM

The purpose of the meeting was to appraise the strategic plan, discuss and agree on emerging issues, opportunities and outlook for engagements during 2016 and to support the establishment of functional governance structures and systems for the UFWG network through election of a new steering committee.

1.3 Methodology

It was a highly interactive where by Power point Presentations and plenary discussions were used to deliver in the meeting. Election of the steering committee was based on the revised provisions of the UFWG Constitution particularly considering the different categories of representation which included regional representation.

1.4 Output

- a. Technical and Financial reports shared;
- b. The new Steering committee elected.

2.0 Meeting Proceedings

2.1 Background and objectives of the meeting

Dr. Joshua Zake, Program Director- EA, gave a snapshot of the multi stakeholders meeting where views and issues regarding forest tenure were discussed and will be further shared in another bigger forest forum being organised by Mr. Langoya Council Dickson-National Project Coordinator of the Forest Tenure Project in Uganda.

Highlighting on the UFWG membership, Dr. Joshua informed members that the Network has been maintained (*64 as at September 2015*) and new members joined the Network through the Regional Nodes (i.e. South-Western, Northern Uganda, Agoro-Agu Forest Landscape Platform, Greater Virunga Platform) with each node having about 20 members

He then notified members that both financial and technical reports of the recent past will be shared so as to get an understanding on how the Network is performing and also as a way of promoting transparency.

2.2 The overall objective of the meeting:

The overall objective of the meeting was to Support establishment of a functional governance structures and systems for the UFWG network. Thus, election of the new steering committee, updates on strategic plan implementation, emerging issues, opportunities as well as discussing and agreeing upon engagements during 2016.

2.3 Review of Previous minutes by Mr. Lutwama Godfrey- Program Assistant, EA

The previous AGM was convened from 8-10/Feb/2012 and was attended by 79 members including NGOs, CBOs, Academic institutions, research institutions, individual members, Government officials, private sector and other like mind stakeholders.

The 2012 AGM focused on Capacity building where members were trained on policy lobbying and advocacy. A Swot Analysis of UFWG was conducted and the Annual Report was shared as well as electing a steering committee 2012-2015.

During the discussions, members observed the following key issues that need to be addressed:

- a. Considering the SWOT analysis that was done, it was suggested that there is need to revise the opportunities to inform the Network's resources mobilisation strategy;
- b. Need to strategically engage Politicians and members of parliament;
- c. There is need to train members in resource mobilisation although the challenge was lack of a budget line that would facilitate the training;
- d. Member also highlighted the need to have some branding of the network. For example branding items such as caps, T- shirts, pens etc. and sell them to members and other well-wishers as this can also be part of resource mobilisation for the network.

2.4 Updates, 2012-2015; Rapid appraisal of the UFWG—SP; Pending activities, Nov-Dec 2015; and Outlook 2016 by Dr. Joshua Zake

This presentation was made by Dr. Joshua Zake-Program Director, Environmental Alert who first of all pointed out the UFWG Projects Implemented from 2012 to 2015 to include;

- A.** Increasing the Visibility of the role of forests and the forestry sector in Uganda's national development, 2011-2012 – Funded by FAO
- B.** Establishing a Forest CSO platform for improved governance of forest resources in the Greater Virunga Landscape with financial support from World Wide Fund for Nature – Uganda Country Office (WWF-UCO) through the SIDA Civil society strengthening in the ARLR, 2014;
- C.** Civil society capacity building initiatives for increased transparency and good governance in the forest sector through promoting sustainable forest management and forest certification in Uganda coordinated by the Uganda Forest Working Group in partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature – Uganda Country Office (WWF-UCO), 2012-2014;
- D.** Strengthening CSOs Networking and Expanding Negotiation Spaces for More Inclusive Management of Forest Resources in the Albertine Rift - ENR-CSO FOREST Project, 2013-2017;
- E.** Towards Pro-Poor REDD+ (Phase II): Promoting Pro-Poor REDD+ Principles and Rights-Based Approaches to Strengthen the Conservation, Governance and Sustainable Management of Mt. Elgon and Agoro-Agu Landscapes in Uganda, 2013-2017;
- F.** Strengthening civil society participation in promoting sustainable forest management and legal timber trade in Uganda, 2015-2018 with financial support from WWF.

2.4.1 Key achievements 2012 to 2015

The key achievements of the UFWG since 2012 to 2015 include the following:

- (i) UFWG membership has been maintained (64 as at September 2015) and new members joined the Network through the Regional Nodes (i.e. South-Western, Northern Uganda, Agoro-Agu Forest Landscape Platform, Greater Virunga Platform) with each node having about 20 members;

- (ii) Organized UFWG Steering Committee meetings over the period. Thus, 2 meetings per year;
- (iii) Earlier engagements of UFWG on REDD+ (expanded consultations & REDD+ Working Group) resulted in the approval of the REDD Readiness preparation Proposal and related Institutional arrangements (e.g. *establishment of the REDD Secretariat*) to deliver on anticipated results under REDD+;
- (iv) Since 2008, Participation in the Annual Joint Sector Review and Joint Technical Review for ENR sub-sector – assessment of performance against set indicators on deliverables in the forest sub-sector;
- (v) Preparation and publishing of ENR-CSOs mini-performance reports. This has improved the visibility and credibility of ENR-CSOs;
- (vi) Establishment of operational structures (e.g. *Standards Development Group, Standards Development Group, National Consultative Forum, Forest Stewardship Council Focal Point*) to steer development of the National Forest Stewardship Standards for Uganda;
- (vii) Active participation on annual forest week activities as of the celebration of the International Day of Forests – *21st March*, which culminate into the National Forestry Consultative Forum. This has been done 2 times through joint implementation/collaboration;
- (viii) Participation in the 14th World Forestry Congress in South Africa;
- (ix) Enhanced credibility of the UFWG at various for a at different levels;
- (x) Participation in climate change decision making process at different levels. Thus, National level (Climate change policy); International (CoP 18, 19, 20) through ENR-CSO Network thematic working group on climate change;
- (xi) Increased recognition and request for UFWG's input/contribution in various policy making processes (e.g. Review/development of National Development Plan II; Review/development of the National Forest Plan, 2012-2022);
- (xii) Establishment and operationalization of district environment coalitions in selected districts in the Albertine rift (Bulisa, Hoima, Masindi, Kabalore, Kiryandongo);
- (xiii) Increased participation and use of policy engagement spaces at different levels e.g. *in the annual Joint ENR Sector Review over the period the number has increased from 3 (EA, IUCN and ACODE) in 2008 to 20 CSOs in. Besides, even spaces at the local government level (e.g. Technical planning committees, Council) are being utilized.*

2.4.2 Current Projects Implementation, 2015

During the year 2015, several projects were implemented through the UFWG. They include the following:

A) Strengthening civil society participation in promoting sustainable forest management and legal timber trade in Uganda. Implemented in collaboration with WWF-Uganda. Total project budget of about 50,000 USD annually. The project's goal is, *'an effective civil society engagement leading to enabling policy practice and objective decision making with regard to*

forest management for increased social, economic and environmental benefits accruing from forests and other natural resources. The specific objects for the project are:

- To strengthen measures for improving sustainable forest management at local and national levels;
- Increased space for civil society engagement to influence relevant policy, practice, plans and programs;
- Institutional development among smallholder farmers and market linkages for FSC certified timber strengthened.

B) Towards Pro-Poor REDD+ (Phase II): Promoting Pro-Poor REDD+ Principles and Rights-Based Approaches to Strengthen the Conservation, Governance and Sustainable Management of Mt. Elgon and Agoro-Agu Landscapes in Mbale and Lamwo districts in Uganda, respectively. Total project budget is about 10,000 USD annually. The purpose of the project in Uganda is to integrate pro-poor principles and rights-based approaches into the National REDD+ Strategy, and other frameworks for sustainable management of forest resources in Uganda. The specific outcome of the project will be “A pro-poor REDD+ benefit sharing scheme that clearly incorporates multiple benefits and incentives to the poor is agreed upon, demonstrated and applied in Mt Elgon and Agoro Agu project sites”.

C) Enhancing forest Tenure and Conservation in Uganda project. It's implemented in collaboration with FSSD and FAO. Total project budget is about 40,000,000 UGX for a period of 1 year. The project is being implemented in 3 districts (Masindi, Bushenyi and Lamwo) in partnership with Tree Talk Plus, COVOD, CODECA and Environmental Alert. It also involves national levels engagements on selected forestry issues through awareness and multi-stakeholder forums. The project has the following components:

- Component 1** ---supporting the national and decentralised level forestry institutions to strengthen the registration of private forests and declaration of community forests;
- Component 2** ---enhancing Knowledge and understanding of the Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure and other related National Guidelines and Legislation;
- Component 3** ----enhanced Transparency, Coordination and Collaboration among forest Sector Stakeholders and also with other sectors.

Other projects

A) Forestry project whose goal is, ‘Civil society coordination, networking and multi stakeholder collaboration strengthened leading to a more inclusive management of forest resources in the Albertine Rift’. It is implemented in 5 districts in the Albertine rift i.e. Hoima, Masindi, Kiryandongo, Kabaloro and Buliisa. Specific project objectives:

- Enhanced level of involvement by ENR-CSO Network members in forestry sector networks, alliances and stakeholder forums at sub-national and national levels;
- Functioning public, private and participatory forest management systems.

2.4.2 Key Activities Implementation Progress – January-October 2015

The key activities implemented during the period January to October 2015 are presented as follows:

- Organized 3 UFWG Steering Committee Meetings;
- Projects baseline studies conducted and reports available;
- Development/signing of agreements with implementing partners under the forest tenure project
- Grants/funds management and coordination of implementing partners under the forest tenure project and ENR-CSO Network project;

- e. Project inception and sensitization meetings spearheaded by the lead implementing partners;
- f. Coordination of members of the forest thematic working group for their effective participation in the fourth coming ENR annual Joint sector review, 6-8th October 2016;
- g. Organized planning workshop for participation of ENRCSOs in the annual joint sector review for 2015. *About 40 ENRCSOs involved;*
- h. Mobilized ENRCSOs to submit their annual performance reports, which were consolidated to develop the ENRCSO Network mini-performance report 2014/15 that will be published as part of the ENR sub-sector performance report. Thus, 33 CSOs reported with a total contribution of about 25 million dollars invested in the sub-sector;
- i. Appraised government performance through engagements by the ENRCSO Thematic Working Groups. Thus, *about 50 CSOs* were involved in this with each group engaging 10 CSOs on average. The outputs from this informed development of the ENR-CSO Network position on Government performance for 2014/15 and recommendations for 2015/16;
- j. Mobilized ENRCSOs (about 40 CSOs involved) to review/validate the ENRCSO Network mini-performance report 2014/15 and the ENR-CSO Network position on Government performance for 2014/15 and recommendations for 2015/16;
- k. Coordination of the Standards Development Group for their review and inputs into the National Forest Stewardship Standards with the International Generic Indicators for subsequent submission to the Forest Stewardship Council for consideration/approval;
- l. Printed and published information materials *e.g. 2000 copies of the ENRCSO position 2013/14; Stickers and posters on promoting good forest governance and security of tenure; Draft policy brief on forest tenure;*
- m. In collaboration with Forest Sector Support Department and other civil society stakeholders, the very first National Forestry Consultative Forum meeting was organized as part of the celebrations for International Day of Forests in March. The forum brought together over 150 stakeholders and deliberated on key issues pertaining to forest governance and the outstanding challenges for the sector;
- n. Identification of media house (radio stations) to support targeted awareness about the forest tenure project and related issues in the respective project areas;
- o. Technical backstopping conducted for District Environment Coalition in Masindi, Kiryandongo, Hoima, Kabarole and Buliisa. This was in aspects of mainstreaming climate change in forestry and development planning, policy lobbying and advocacy; and participation in the fourth coming joint sector review process;
- p. A total of 125 ENR-CSO Network representatives and 15 District Forestry Officer/District Production Officers benefited from the training;
- q. Mobilized the Standards Development Group to integrate international generic indicators and approve the first draft National Forest Stewardship Council guidelines (NFSS). This was submitted to the Forest Stewardship Council. The draft has been shared with stakeholders and interest groups for further consultations and inputs;
- r. Formalized the Agoro-Agu CFR landscape platform in (Lamwo and Kitgum districts) as part of the Northern Uganda UFWG regional Node. Thus, signed MoUs with host institution and ToRs with steering committee members for the platform;
- s. Submitted the National Forest Stewardship Standards (first draft) to the Forest Stewardship Council for consideration/consultations;
- t. Disseminated baseline study findings among key stakeholders in the Agoro-Agu CFR landscape in Lamwo district;
- u. Streamlined institutional requirements for operationalizing of the Agoro-Agu forest landscape platform (*as part of the UFWG Node for northern Uganda*) in Lamwo district;

- v. Participated in the ENR/Forest election campaign, thus, attended planning meetings, Developed ENRCSO forest manifesto, Participated in the launch of the manifesto and campaign, Organized meeting to discuss and develop a consolidated ENR Manifesto by ENR-CSOs, Regularly shared information on Forestry (e.g. NFSS, Sustainable Development Goals, ENRCSO/forest manifesto, ENRCSO Network position and report) through online platforms (websites and other social media).

2.4.3 Rapid appraisal of the UFWG—SP, 2011-2016

A rapid appraisal of the UFWG SP, 2011-2016 was done basing on its objectives as summarised in the Table 1.

Table1. Rapid appraisal of the UFWG—SP, 2011-2016.

Objective	output	Key achievement
Objective#1. To advocate and lobby for effective policy, legal and institutional framework for forestry resources and management in Uganda.	Output 1: Site specific regulations on forest utilization developed and Implemented.	a) Process is in advanced stages for development of guidelines for registration of private and community forests; b) Through the Uganda Forest Governance Learning Group, participation in engagements for the National Tree Planting regulations, which are now approved.
	Outputs #2: Tools for strengthening implementation Local government mandate over Local Forest Reserves.	a) Facilitated and supported development and implementation of local level advocacy engagement action plans through coalitions e.g. in 5 districts of the Albertine rift.
	Outputs #3: Measures for delivering forest conservation benefits developed and applied.	b) A process for supporting UNETCOFA is under way (institutional capacity assessment and implementation of capacity enhancement plan; c) Development and implementation of an engagement agenda for UNETCOFA).
	Output #4: Increased recognition of forestry sector in national and district development planning and budget allocations.	a) Engagements for inclusion of forestry in the National Development Plan II; b) Mechanisms established/implemented through district environment coalitions and UFWG; c) Nodes to advocate and influence decision making and policy implementation at the local level
Objective#2. To generate and disseminate knowledge and information about sustainable forestry resources management practices and needs	<i>Output #1: Knowledge and information about the status of forestry resources in the country produced and disseminated.</i> <i>Outputs #2: Knowledge and information on SFM documented and disseminated</i>	Several publications developed including ENRCSO position 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14; Stickers and posters on promoting good forest governance and security of tenure; Several publications as outputs from project on International year of Forests -2011
Objective#3. To strengthen capacity of	<i>Output #1: Enhanced quality of services rendered by UFWG</i>	a) Over 30 UFWG members benefited from training on human rights based approaches and application of the pro-REDD+ principles

network members and other stakeholders in forestry resources management	<i>members</i>	
	<i>Output #2: Value addition to Stakeholders by UFWG in SFM</i>	a) Information about various issues of forest management and related opportunities has been regularly shared through online platforms; b) Specialized knowledge and information (on forest certification) was delivered to several UFWG and forest sector stakeholders through the process on development of the national Forest Stewardship Standards for Uganda.
Objective#4. To demonstrate good forestry resources management practices	Output #1: Sustainable Forest Management practices in action at selected sites	a) UFWG members are implementing specific institutional projects supporting sustainable forest management. These have been documented as part of the ENRCSO mini-performance reports that are published as a chapter in the ENR sector performance reports, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014; b) Process for development of the National Forest Stewardship Standards is in advanced stages for submission to the FSC. The standards are market based tools for sustainable forest management.
Objective#5. To build a credible UFWG Network	<i>Output #1: UFWG capacity to implement its Mission.</i>	a) Mobilized resources for implementation of the SP through 6 projects over the last 4 years since 2011; b) Maintained donors/partners (WWF-UG, FAO) and brought on board new donor/partners (FAO, IUCN, Care International in Uganda); c) Mobilized new members constituting UFWG regional nodes (Great Virunga Landscape, Northern Uganda and the 5 Environment Coalitions in the Albertine Rift).
	<i>Output #2: Credible UFWG network.</i>	a) The network has actively involved in policy engagements at different levels and in the process has provided recommendations on several forest issues through the annual joint sector reviews; annual forest week as part of celebrations for the annual forest day; Review of the National Forest Investment Plan, 2011-2022
	<i>Output #3: Strong and effective partnerships and collaborative ventures</i>	a) 3 projects running with 3 active partners (WWF-UG, FAO, IUCN) over the last 3 years; b) Organized several UFWG Steering committee meetings. On average 2 meetings annually.

2.4.6 Key emerging issues (opportunities and challenges)

The key emerging issues are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Key opportunities and challenges from implementation.

OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
a. The development of the National REDD+ strategy for Uganda	a. Limited resources to effectively fund and implement the UFWG strategic plan, 2011-16
b. Having committed members	b. Inability to organize regular Annual General Assembly due to limited resources
c. Availability of financing partners in the forest sector	c. Failure to operationalize UFWG regional nodes (Great Virunga Landscape and Northern Uganda) due to limited resources/funds
d. Availability of committed members to take up leadership.	d. Expiration of the term of office of the current steering committee
e. There projects where members for UFWG engage and discuss on forestry issues for example the GCCA project engagements.	e. Lack of an M&E framework (deficient of indicators at objective and output level) for the UFWG strategic plan
f. The availability of government policies for curbing corruption.	f. Inability to conduct a mid-term and final evaluation of the UFWG SP implementation due to lack of funds
	g. Limited documentation of lessons and experiences across board
	h. Corruption – (Licensing, permits, cheats) a detriment to community interests and benefits, increasing impacts.

2.4.7 The Pending Activities (Nov-Dec 2015) & Outlook for 2016

The following are the key planned activities for 2016:

- a. Submission of the National Forest Stewardship Standards (first draft) to the Forest Stewardship Council for consideration/consultations;
- b. Stakeholder's and interest group's consultations/input into the National Forest Stewardship Standards (first draft);
- c. Consultations and inputs by the National Consultative Forum into the National Forest Stewardship Standards (first draft);
- d. Forest testing of the National Forest Stewardship Standards (first draft);
- e. Submission of the National Forest Stewardship Standards (second draft) to the Forest Stewardship Council for consideration/approval;
- f. Conduct a training on human rights based approaches and pro-poor REDD+ principles for stakeholders in the Agoro-Agu CFR landscape in Lamwo district;
- g. Commission a study on mainstreaming legal timber trade in transactions of MWE, PPDA and Local Government assessment committees;
- h. Continued cooperation with WWF-Uganda to support process for finalizing of the national forest stewardship standards. **50,000 USD annually;**
- i. Continued cooperation with Care International in Uganda for support towards implementation of the ENR-CSO Network forest project. **200-400 million annually;**
- j. Continued cooperation with IUCN to support pilot of incentive and benefit sharing mechanisms in Agoro-Agu CFR landscape to inform the national REDD+ strategy and issue based engagements through the REDD+ platform in Ago-Agu CFR landscape in Lamwo district – **5000-10000 USD per year.**
- k. Operationalization of UFWG regional nodes (Northern Uganda, Great Virunga landscape and Mt. Elgon landscape) with clear engagement agenda/s

- I. Engagements to contribute to development of the REDD+ Strategy for Uganda with support from UNREDD and WB-CPF. Collaboration between IUCN, EA, Tree Talk Plus and WCS –**500,000 USD**

2.4.8 Key emerging issues from plenary discussions

The key issues raised during the plenary session as presented as follows:

- i. The secretariat should request the BoD to allow the opening of a separate account for the group
- ii. Reporting should be result based hence the need to develop a result based monitoring framework
- iii. Response timing when taking actions and also use of different tactics to engage stakeholders
- iv. The secretariat should draw on the available expertise within the group/network on thematic areas. e.g Mr. Gaster Kiyingi to take lead in developing the communications strategy
- v. Need to develop a general work plan with indicative planning figures based on identified thematic areas that guide objectives
- vi. There is also need to develop an advocacy and a communications strategy
- vii. Branding of material items like t-shirts was identified as a means of resource mobilisation
- viii. The reporting template/data collection tool should be revised and simplified to enhance contribution from members
- ix. Capacity building on resource mobilisation should be included as part of the activities in the new work plan
- x. The registration form for the ENR CSO Network should also be simplified
- xi. Capacity building of communities is crucial as this will equip them with tools to engage different stakeholders especially duty bearers at different levels
- xii. Specific thematic areas need to be identified to feed into the overall objective of the network

2.4 Presentation of the UWFG financial report for 2012 - 2015

Dr. Joshua Zake presented the UWFG financial analysis basing on a summary of the funds received and spent between 2012 and 2015 and was derived from the audited accounts of Environmental Alert during the period, (see annex 1).The UWFG has project based kind of funding from different agencies for a period between 2012-2015. The agencies include; WWF, FAO, IUCN and FSC.

However, the key financial challenges faced included:

- a. Delayed release of funds that affects effective implementation of field activities thus low performance against planned activities;
- b. Low staffing due to insufficient funding allocated to staff time;
- c. It's difficult to spend within the allocated budgets as prices have gone up due to inflation;
- d. Project based funding vs. funding based on the strategic plan. Thus, most of the funding is project based with specific interests.

2.5 Election of the New Steering Committee

a) Process:

The election procedures were based on the provisions in the constitution that highlights that representation of the steering committee be constituted of 9 members putting gender into consideration. The categories of institutional representation included; NGOs, CBOs, Research institutions, Academia, Environmental Advocates, Private sector, Local government and Regional representatives.

The election of the new steering committee was conducted with reference to the UFWG memorandum of Principles and how it was previously done during the AGM in 2012. During the Process, nominations were conducted where all candidates were unopposed. The elected members then had a separate brief meeting to elect the Chairperson and the Vice chairperson amongst themselves. Overall results were then announced to the entire meeting as summarised in Table 3.



Figure 1. Dr. Zake receives certificate of appreciation for Environmental Alert as UFWG Secretariat, from Mr. Gaster Kiyingi, the UFWG Chairperson. Photo by EA.

Table 3. Outcomes of the steering committee members' elections.

No	Category	Name	Institution
1	NGO	Gaster Kiyingi	Tree Talk Plus
2	CBO	Balongo Charles Kasangaki	BOMODO
3	Research institutions	Denis Mujuni	NAFORRI
4	Private sector	UTGA	
5	Academia	Dr. Patrick Byakagaba	Makerere University
6	Environmental advocates	Ann Amumpiire	ACODE
7	Local government	Harriet Nankya	Wakiso DLG
8	Regional Representatives	North- Pope Onen	UFWG
		South- Bugeiga Janet	LIPRO-Uganda
		Karamoja region- Amuge Enid	CRY-Uganda
9	Chairperson elected from the newly elected committee members	Gaster Kiyingi	Tree Talk Plus
	Vice Chairperson	Ann Amumpiire	ACODE

b) Handover

The new steering committee was inaugurated and members pledged their commitment to push forward the objectives of the Uganda Forestry Working Group.

3.0 Closing Remarks

Dr. Clement Okia gave the closing remarks in which he expressed his appreciation of the commendable work done by the secretariat to coordinate the Network. Dr. Okia, on behalf of the Uganda Forestry Working Group handed over a certificate of appreciation to the secretariat represented by Dr. Joshua Zake.

In his final remarks, he congratulated the incoming steering committee and also thanked the outgoing committee members for the work well done. This was followed by the awarding of certificates of recognition to all out going committee members.

4.0 Conclusion

The meeting was successful having the intended objective achieved. However, the following key issues were emphasised for the Secretariat to take on, moving forward were:

- a. Development of a resource mobilisation strategy;
- b. Open up a separate bank account for UFWG;
- c. Develop an advocacy and communications strategy.

5.0 Annexes

5.1 Annex 1: Summary of the UWFG financial report for 2012 - 2015

WWF

	2012 (audited) '000	2013 (audited) '000	2014 (Unaudited) '000	2015 Jan – Aug (unaudited) '000
Opening balance	(2,804)	894	25,187	-
Funds received	43,535	92,050	-	78,053
Expenditure	(39,837)	(67,757)	(25,187)	(47,216)
Surplus/(deficit)	894	25,187	-	30,864

WWF – Great Virunga Landscape

	2012 (audited) '000	2013 (audited) '000	2014 (Unaudited) '000	2015 Jan – Aug (unaudited) '000
Funds received			33,224	
Expenditure			(33,224)	
Surplus/(deficit)			-	

WWF 2014

	2012 (audited) '000	2013 (audited) '000	2014 (Unaudited) '000	2015 Jan – Aug (unaudited) '000
Opening balance			-	678
Funds received			89,376	-
Expenditure			(88,698)	610
Surplus/(deficit)			678	68

IUCN

	2012 (audited) '000	2013 (audited) '000	2014 (Unaudited) '000	2015 Jan – Aug (unaudited) '000
Opening balance			-	9,264
Funds received			19,534	20,279
Expenditure			(10,270)	(10,040)
Surplus/(deficit)			9,264	19,503

FSC 2013

	2012 (audited) '000	2013 (audited) '000	2014 (Unaudited) '000	2015 Jan – Aug (unaudited) '000
Opening balance			(6,139)	
Funds received		75,752	72,690	
Expenditure		(81,671)	(66,551)	
Surplus/(deficit)		(6,138)	-	

FSC 2014

	2012 (audited) '000	2013 (audited) '000	2014 (Unaudited) '000	2015 Jan – Aug (unaudited) '000
Opening balance			-	(4,607)
Funds received			80,000	18,000
Expenditure			(84,607)	(13,393)
Surplus/(deficit)			(4,607)	-

FAO

	2012 (audited) '000	2013 (audited) '000	2014 (Unaudited) '000	2015 Jan – Aug (unaudited) '000
Opening balance	141,071			-

Funds received	17,150			116,556
Expenditure	(131,824)			(91,826)
Surplus/(deficit)	26,397			24,730