



IMPACT STUDY FOR THE FOREST RESOURCES SECTOR TRANSPARENCY PROGRAMME OF CARE INTERNATIONAL IN UGANDA



A self-regenerating Matiri CFR (Bwesese-side) Kyenjojo District

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACCU	Anti-corruption Coalition -Uganda
ACODE	Action Coalition for Development and Environment
CARE	Cooperative Assistance for Relief Everywhere
CBMs	Community Based Monitors
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CDRN	Community Development Resource Network
CFM	Collaborative Forest Management
CFRs	Central Forest Reserves
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DFO	District Forest Officer
DFS	District Forestry Services
DPC	District Police Commander
EA	Environmental Alert
ED	Executive Director
ENR-CSO	Environmental and Natural Resources Civil Society Organisations
EPP	Environment Protection Police
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FOREST	Forest Resources Sector Transparency
FSSD	Forest Sector Support Department
FSSD	Forestry Sector Support Department
HC	Health Centre
ICT	Information Communication Technology
JESE	Joint Effort to Save the Environment
KBA	Kabarole Beekeepers Association
KICOFOMA	Kihaimira Collaborative Forest Management Association
KIFECA	Kajuma-Itwara Forest and Environment Conservation Association
LC	Local Council
LFR	Local Forest Reserve
LG	Local Government
MANRUIA	Matiri Natural Resource User and Income Enhancement Association
MEPA	Mubende Environmental Protection Association
MIRAC	Mid-Western Anti-Corruption Coalition
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
NFA	National Forest Authority
NFTPA	National Forest and Tree Planting Act
PANOSEA	Panos Eastern Africa
PCC	Programme Coordination Committee
PDCF	Programme Development and Coordination Facility
RAC	Rwenzori Anti-corruption Coalition
RACs	Regional Anti-corruption Coalitions
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
SPGS	Sawlog Production Grant Scheme
UPDF	Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces
WEMNET	Water, Environment and Media Network

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CARE International in Uganda has been supporting the implementation of Forest Resources Sector Transparency (FOREST) Programme at National level and in districts of the Albertine Region since 2013. The **goal** is: “*civil society has increased transparency, accountability and responsiveness in forest governance for the benefit of poor Ugandan citizens*”. The programme was mainly implemented through six partners and other key stakeholders who are CSOs, the Media, Local Governments, NFA and Ministry of Water and Environment.

Programme Objectives: (i) Coordination, networking and multi-stakeholder collaboration leading to inclusive management (ii) Effective monitoring and advocacy for appropriate forest legislation (iii) Empowerment of vulnerable citizens for participation in governance of forest resources and (iv) Increased legitimacy, accountability and transparency through capacity building.

This report documents findings from the impact study commissioned by CARE in 2017 *to identify and document significant impacts, approaches employed and lessons learned as a result of implementing the FOREST programme as part of CARE's learning agenda, in order to inform on-going and similar or related interventions in the future.*”

Findings

The programme has contributed to increased levels of awareness and knowledge of forest policies and laws among community members from 35% to 93% representing an increment of 58%. There is improvement in the implementation of forest laws reflected in the reduction of illegal forest resource extraction from 90%¹ in 2014 to 28.2% in 2017. At the time of the Impact Study, charcoal burning and grazing in Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) that were at 5.1% and 2.7% respectively at the time of the CARE and JESE Baseline Survey had been reduced to 0%. Cultivation on CFRs has reduced from 13.6% to 4.4%.

Attendance of forest governance meetings is at 93% and 33% for respondents who belong to user groups and those who do not respectively. Only 4% of user group respondents do not at all fulfil forest governance related responsibilities compared to 45% of non-user group.

The percentage of women participating and benefiting from the programme is 29.6%. In KIFECA out of 154 members 52 are women. Each member of KIFECA was allocated 2 hectares of land for tree planting without discrimination. 55% of women have planted trees compared to 45% of the men.

In 2014, 77% of respondents were not aware of the processes for accessing forest resources. This has reduced to 50%. Access to resources at no cost has reduced from 97% to 81.8%. This is due to increased awareness of the law and vigilance in monitoring by community members where 49.4% of them monitor on a weekly basis, 31.4% monthly, 11.4 % quarterly, 3.8% bi-annually and 4% annually.

Between 1st Oct. 2015 and 31st Oct. 2016, 172 cases were reported through the Call Centre out of which 26.2 % were resolved. This is close to 21% overall level of response recorded between Jan 2015 and

¹ All baseline figures are derived from the reports conducted by CARE and Implementing Partners in 2014.

December 2016². The low resolution of cases is due: impunity of highly politically connected people; corruption amongst some of the duty bearers; forest lawlessness supported by politicians and inconsistence in the follow-up of cases by national level Implementing Partners. Comparatively, the situation is different for cases reported to Rwenzori Anti-corruption Coalition in Kabarole where case resolution is at 86%.

The number of media houses covering forest governance issues increased from 03 in 2013 to 17 in 2017. This amplified voice resulted into cancellation of 154 illegal land titles and massive eviction of encroachers from CFRs.

Forest concerns identified by CBMs were discussed within Use Groups, forwarded to Implementing Partners at national level where rigorous advocacy resulted into: Draft Guidelines for Benefit Sharing; finalization and approval of National Forestry and Tree Planting Regulations and an agreed road map for the operationalization of the Tree Fund.

Members of Matiri Natural Resource User and Income Enhancement Association were supported in value chain development for coffee and bee keeping enterprises. As a result, Kawaruju – Mahasa Bee-keeping Sub-group increased their beehives from 87 to 117 and productivity per hive increased from 2½ to 8kgs representing an increment 320%. Other members adopted good agronomical practices that increased maize productivity from 5 bags to 13 bags per garden.

The empowerment gained by community members from the programme widened their scope of analysing basic needs and became more desirous of improving their standards of living. Examples of what has changed include: (i) Increased enrolment of children in private schools for better quality education, (ii) Access to safe and clean water in Kyakamuranda and upgrading of Kyakamuranda Heath Centre II to HCIII (iii) Improvement in sanitation and hygiene at household level by adopting hand wash practices and a shift from grass-thatched to iron sheet-roofed latrines (iv) Increased uptake of solar energy as a source of lighting by community members.

CARE's facilitative role is greatly appreciated by all implementing partners and duty bearers in terms of being a "listening" partner, flexible in responding to emerging issues and capacity development (CD). Two notable outcomes of CD are: the use of social media for advocacy where in a period of nine months, social media yielded a total of 3,052 tweets and 12,837,753 impressions. The use of Outcome Journals was incorporated in Monitoring & Evaluation systems of most IPs.

Best practices

- Recognition of CBMs who were appointed in strategic positions of leadership. The LCIII Chairperson of Butiiti Sub-county (who is also the Sub-county Lead Monitor) appointed two of the CBMs on the Sub-county Land Committee, another CBM on the LCIII Court and the fourth one appointed the Chairperson of Butiiti Heath Centre II.
- Joint planning by implementing partners and peer review enhances synergy and promotes horizontal accountability.
- Coordination and avoidance of overlaps in the programme did not take the traditional approach of spatial/ geographical mapping but instead it took into account organizational competencies.

² Derived from CARE M&E DATA Base.

- The Inter-district Multi Stakeholders' Forum that is all inclusive is an effective platform for participation, monitoring and consensus building. This is a pre-requisite for forest governance because sentiments of marginalisation that usually fuel lawlessness are eliminated and victimization of district-based organisations and individuals is overcome.
- Reporting of forest crimes to several duty bearers and civil society activists through the ICT (SMS) Platform provided checks and balances for some of the corrupt duty bearers.

Lessons learnt

- Simultaneous reporting of forest crimes to several duty bearers and civil society activists through the ICT SMS gateway minimises corruption among duty bearers.
- Stakeholders' support and participation in monitoring and taking action against forest crimes is a very effective approach for handling forest crimes that are increasingly getting more sophisticated and skewed to land grabbing.
- It is important to work with journalists as partners and not just reporting outlets because this enables them get grounded in issues of forest governance.
- Whenever media platform voice community grievances, duty bearers are compelled to give response on the stated grievances through the same platforms.
- The approach of working closely with duty bearers from the time of conceptualization of the project facilitates ownership of programme results while engaging diverse stakeholders throughout the research process enhances research credibility.

Challenges

- Engaging the Judiciary was a weak component in the programme. Most magistrates do not take forest crimes seriously, tend to give lenient sentences that have no deterrent effect and in some cases, justice is not expedited.
- NFA has been less effective in giving feedback to the CBMs and has not met most of her obligations under the CFM. NFA has not paid allowances of patrol men on time. Some of them demand payment for over two years. Further the contractor for the Matiri CFR enrichment planting has not been paid. This is causing discontent amongst members of MANRUIA whose labour he hired. These are



Brief Assessment of the Theory of Change: Civil society in its entirety has identified undisputed forest governance issues through Community Based Monitors, investigative journalism and critical action research and brought them to the attention of duty bearers. The identified issues have been amplified through the media irrespective of how powerful the forest criminals are. This has compelled the duty bearers to act by terminating contract services of those found guilty and cancelling illegal land titles in CFRs.

There are also significant change stories to tell. Kyegegwa district has put her hand where her mouth is by increasing budgetary allocations to the Forest Department from 2 million Uganda Shillings in 2012/13 to 54 million in 2017/18. The "Mission Impossible" of evicting encroachers from Kaweeri CFR by NFA is now history due to the combined effort of the inter-district multi-stakeholder forum. The ruthless forest destroyer has turned into a forest governance activist making the biblical STORY OF SAUL TURNED PAUL A REALITY IN THE FOREST PROGRAMME.



demotivating factors for community participation in forest governance and compromises NFA relations with communities adjacent to the CFR.

- The weak governance of wetlands and other fragile eco-systems downplays the benefits accrued from improved forest governance. For instance, The Kyerenga Wetland bordering Kyegegwa and Kyenjojo, the Butunduzi side of Matiri CFR and Muzizi Wetland bordering Kibego, Muhangi, Itwara and Kangombe.
- There was not a single registration/declaration of a privately owned natural forest concluded in the entire programme period and these forests are disappearing at a very fast rate.
- Very high expectations from the stakeholders who wanted support in form of seedlings, bee hives or other forms of livelihoods which were outside the scope of the FOREST programme.
- At the time of the Impact Study, community members reported that NFA and UPDF officials connive with people by accepting payment to plant crops in Kangombe, Nyamarunda side. Those who cannot pay are chased. Respondents further revealed that the banana plantation that had been planted in the CFR is used to lure girls into sex by the UPDF in exchange for matooke.
- Impunity of politically connected and powerful forest crime perpetrators demotivates community members who put effort in protecting the forest resources.

Recommendations

- The Justice Sector and Ministry of Lands should be brought on board to enable them appreciate forest issues such as the importance of evoking sections of the law that are sufficiently punitive and stopping illegal land titling. This requires establishing a coordinating centre where stakeholders convene for update on implementation of forest laws.
- Institute a system of giving rewards to individuals (citizens) who help government to successfully prosecute the offenders as is the case in Tanzania.
- Strengthen intra- information sharing mechanisms within NFA concerning CSO projects.
- Future Forest programmes should maintain Coordination Committees where a representative of NFA is co-opted.
- NFA should set aside funds for implementation of the CFMs especially livelihood improvement or else they risk defeating the very purpose of CFM of improving livelihoods through forestry.
- Adopt an electronic system for tracking timber from the time of issuance of a license to the point of sale. This will improve efficiency and minimises physical contact between traders and Forest Managers hence reducing corruption.
- Private sector engagement should be strengthened and technical support provided to the private and communal natural forests owners who desire to register forests. Private tree planters on NFA CFRs have been supported under SPGS, the same should be done for natural forests.
- Wetland and fragile eco-system management should be components of future programme(s).
- Develop clear strategies for gender equality in the use and control of forest resources.

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Programme

CARE International in Uganda with financial support from DANIDA through CARE Denmark, has been supporting implementation of The Forest Resources Sector Transparency (FOREST) Programme since April 2013. The Programme is implemented around Central Forest Reserves and selected Local Forest Reserves in the Districts of Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Mubende, Kibale, Hoima, Kiryandongo, Buliisa, Masindi and at National level.

The goal of the programme is: “civil society has increased transparency, accountability and responsiveness in forest governance for the benefit of poor Ugandan citizens – men and women”.

The objectives of the programme are:

- Civil society coordination, networking and multi-stakeholder collaboration leading to inclusive management of forest resources.
- Civil society effectively monitoring and advocating for appropriate forest laws and regulations.
- Civil society organizations empowering vulnerable citizens to participate in governance of forest resources in specific areas under threat.
- Civil society organizations having increased legitimacy, accountability and transparency through capacity building.

Implementation of the FOREST programme has been through six partners: Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU); Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE); Joint Efforts to Save the Environment (JESE); PANOS Eastern Africa; Environmental Alert (EA), and Community Development Resource Network (CDRN). Other key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the programme included Water and Environment Media Network (WEMNET); Mid-Western Anti-Corruption Coalition (MIRAC); Rwenzori Anti-Corruption Coalition (RAC); Rural Radio Stations³; District and Sub-county; Local Governments and Ministry of Water and Environment. The Contract for PANSEA ended in December 2016 while CDRN and EA ceased to be part of the programme following a Mid-term review.

The implementation of FOREST is guided by a Programme Coordination Committee (PCC) comprised of representatives from each implementing partner and CARE FOREST Programme Staff. The PCC provides a platform for partners to synergize, share information, coordinate their activities and develop common programme strategies.

At the level of CARE, the management of FOREST is overseen by a team of staff under the Programme Development and Coordination Facility (PDCF) whose main role is defined as “developmental and Coordination”.

The main implementation strategies are: the use of ICT platforms (tool free SMS Gateway and Call Centre), strengthening forest governance platforms, private sector engagements through nurturing partnerships, undertaking critical action research, Investigative journalism and social media campaigns. The programme put in place a monitoring and evaluation framework; an advocacy agenda with corresponding strategies and has seen implementation of the advocacy campaigns annually.

³ Radio Kitara, Bunyoro Broadcasting services, Spice FM, Kibale Kagadi Community Radio, Kyenjojo FM, KRC

To-date, the programme has undergone three annual reviews and a mid-term review geared at taking stock of the implementation progress and providing technical direction towards achieving the programme goal and objectives. Following the mid-term review, two campaigns were developed.

In the 2nd quarter of 2017, CARE commissioned an Impact Study with the following specific objectives

- i) To assess and document appropriateness, effectiveness of the approaches and strategies used in influencing forestry policies and securing the rights of the impact group.
- ii) To assess and consolidate the key outcomes of the programme using the outcome journals generated by the programme.
- iii) To assess and document significant impacts (intended and unintended) created by the programme.
- iv) To assess, consolidate and document lessons learned from implementation of programme activities at community, district and national levels.
- v) To provide recommendations on best practices to inform future initiatives within CARE Uganda's work on natural resource governance.

METHODOLOGY

The impact study employed the approach of deduction to test the Theory of Change that informed the FOREST Programme. Through fact finding and analysis, this approach enabled the consultant to examine whether the specific outcomes of the project were in consonance with the Theory of Change.

2.1 Sampling

Out of the eight Districts of programme focus, Hoima, Greater Kibaale, Kyenjojo & Mubende were selected for the study based on population density; highest biomass and regional representation. In addition, Kabarole and Kampala Districts were part of the sample by virtue of the location of the implementing partners. Sampling of Sub-counties was done in collaboration with the implementing partners/ collaborators. The sampled Sub-counties were: Kyabigambire and Kabwoya in Hoima District; Nyamarunda in Kagadi⁴ District; Kihura, Butunduzi, Kyarusozi, and Butiiti in Kyenjojo District; Kiyuni, Kibalinga and Mubende Eastern Division in Mubende District and Kasambya in Kakumiro District.

2.2 Data collection methods

The methods outlined below were used for collection of comprehensive data to ensure validity and credibility of the data generated.

2.2.1 Desk / literature review

This was one of the main data collection methods that substantially supported the collection of both qualitative and quantitative data. A list of documents reviewed is attached as **Annex 5**.

2.2.2 Household interviews

A total of 292 questionnaires were administered at household level with 67.5% males and 29.2 females. The education levels of the household respondents were as follows: 9.9% had never been to school at

⁴ Kagadi and Kakumiro Districts are a new creation from the mother Districts of Kibaale and Mubende.

all, 69.5% had completed primary school, 15.8% had completed secondary school and 4.8% had been to tertiary institutions.

2.2.3 Meetings / interviews for key informants

These were held with the Staff of: CARE under the Programme Development and Coordination Facility (PDCF); Implementing Partners and Collaborators; Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD); NFA at National and Regional levels; Environmental Protection Police; District Local Government Officials and Staff of the District Forest Services.

2.2.4 Focus Group Discussions

A total of 15 Focus Group Discussions were held with Collaborative Forest Management Groups, Community Based Monitors and Charcoal Associations. These were conducted using a semi-structured interview guide.

2.2.5 Mass Meeting

This was held with community members in a trading centre of Nyamicu, Kanyegaramire Sub-county, Kyenjojo District. While this had not been the intention of the consultant, it was demand driven as many people got interested in knowing what was being discussed.

2.2.6 Case studies

The consultant identified respondents for case studies based on what was deemed as the most significant changes that have taken place in the lives of the impact groups, at community level, how they happened, why they happened and the factors that facilitated the changes.

2.3 Data Entry, analysis and presentation

2.3.1 Data Entry and cleaning

A data entry template was designed using SPSS (Version 20). The data was entered and edited using the double entry method. Code sheets were generated to simplify the data entry process. Data cleaning was done prior to data analysis and a data reliable test carried out to ensure authenticity of the data.

Quantitative analysis: This captured measures of central tendencies and where necessary, regression analysis was done to establish cause-effect measures between and among selected variables.

Qualitative analysis: Qualitative data was analysed in line with the research objectives and variables. Triangulation was made with the quantitative data, selected voices from the impact group and verbatim extractions were integrated in the report.

3.0 FINDINGS

The findings of the Impact Study are reported herein along the goal indicators, objectives and tasks as stipulated in the programme documents and Terms of Reference.

The goal of the programme when unpacked has the following elements: (i) Adequacy and fairness of the forest legislation (ii) level of implementation of the forest legislation reflected in (iii) the Annual reductions in forest degradation and (iv) quantity and quality of public forestry services delivered.

3.0.1 Adequacy of the legislation

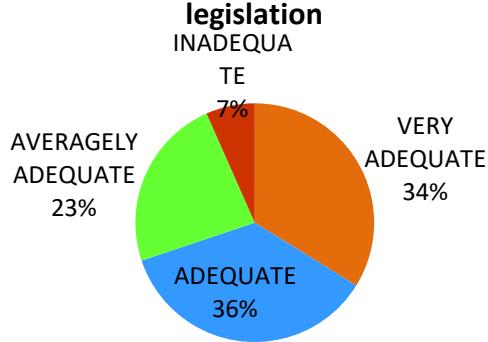
The adequacy of the forest legislative framework is reflected in the Guiding Principles of the Forest Policy 2001 where the following are highlighted:

- Improvement of livelihoods is pointed out as a major goal
- Safeguarding the forest biodiversity and environmental services
- New institutional relationships that enhance efficiency, transparency, accountability and professionalism, and build confidence in all forest stakeholders

In this regard, the central government is advised to withdraw from activities that can be carried out more effectively by the private sector or other stakeholders, devolve responsibility of more forest resources to the Local government, maximisation of private sector investment, encouragement of public participation and strengthen civil society, to build capacity and grassroots participation, and to help develop the rights and responsibilities of forest users.

Qualitative findings on the adequacy of the law from the community members are depicted in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Level of adequacy of forest legislation



34 % of the respondents feel that the law is very adequate, 36% think it is adequate, while 23% and 7% opine that the law is averagely adequate and inadequate respectively. When these figures are desegregated based on whether a respondent belongs to a user group or not, the analysis shows that 8% of respondents who are non-user group members compared to 0% respondents who are members of user-groups are of the opinion that the law is inadequate.

Inadequacy of the law

Article 63 (1) of the NFTA 2003 states that “*The Authority may, in consultation with the respective local government, establish Forestry Committees.*” The word **may** is weak, it is **not mandatory** and creates laxity within the Authority.

Forest activists such as ACCU, ACODE and others argue that forest crime penalties are neither punitive enough nor commensurate to the economic value of the forest crimes. These arguments are based on the **NFTP Act 2003, Section 83** where the maximum penalty is a fine not exceeding **forty currency points** or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or both in the case of a second or subsequent offence. **Section 90 of the same Act provides for a Statutory Order** which when contravened, the

maximum penalty for a perpetual offender, is the penalty prescribed in Section 83 above and an additional fine not exceeding two currency points in respect of each day or part of a day on which the offence continues. One currency point is equivalent to 20,000 Uganda shillings.

Section 85 of the NFTP Act 2003 states that: “A person who is convicted of an offence against this Act may be held liable for any loss or damage caused by the offence and may be ordered by Court to pay to the State, in addition to any penalty imposed by the Court for the offence, an amount of compensation for that loss or damage up to five times the value of the produce.” This section has been ignored by the Courts and offenders are given lenient sentences as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: A sample of cases reported in Hoima District and the corresponding sentences.

Reg	Case No	Charge	Accused	CRB	Date of Sentence	Sentence
24/6/14	461/14	Prohibited activities	Bampabura and 4 others	752/14	24/6/14	6 months imprisonment
2/6/14	461/14	Prohibited activities				50,000/= or 3 months imprisonment
21/3/14	217/14	Prohibited activities	Chombe Ponga and another	335/14	21/3/14	2 months imprisonment
19/3/14	202/14	Prohibited activities	Masiko Alex and another	326/14	20/3/14	60 hours of community service or 9 months imprisonment
11/3/14	172/14	Prohibited activities	Borahi Jack	277/14	20/3/14	50,000/= or 6 months imprisonment
13/2/14	118/14	Prohibited activities	Tumwesigye Alex	169/14	17/3/14	4 months imprisonment

Source: CARE & ACCU: When the Law Costs Conservation Efforts: Policy Briefing Paper Series No.2, 2015

The above table shows that the sentences given to offenders are very weak. It was on this basis that ACCU and ACODE recommended that the current law be revised to attract a minimum penalty by replacing the provision within the law that stipulates “NOT EXCEEDING” with “NOT LESS THAN”.

The scenario in Table 1 above resulted into increasing preference of NFA to settle some cases out of Court by compelling offenders to pay fines that are higher than what they are fined in Courts as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Status of cases reported in Hoima District for the years 2013-2016

Status of Cases	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of cases reported	10	34	19	55
Charged and convicted through paying a fine.	10	0	8	8
Charged, remanded and imprisoned	0	27	0	0
Dismissed	0	7 ⁵	2	0
Investigated	0	0	3	0
Pending Court	0	0	0	27 ⁶

⁵ Witnesses do not attend court due fear

⁶ All have Police Bond

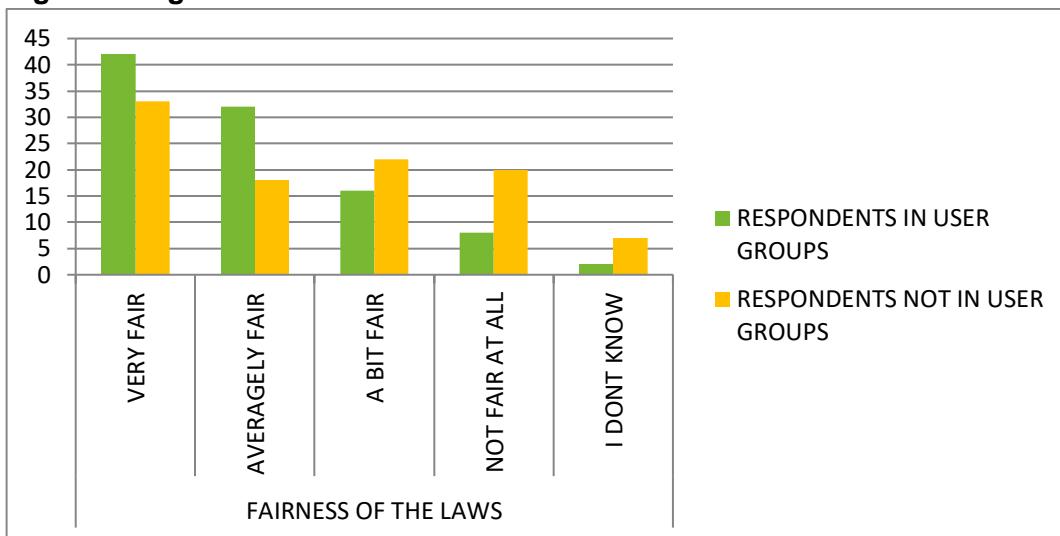
Source: Hoima Police Station April 2017

3.0.2 Equity and fairness of the forest policies and laws

Policy Statement 4 (F) of the National Forest Policy 2001 notes that “women, youth and poor people will be particular beneficiaries in the development of the forest sector. The Statement recognizes sections of society that are often marginalized yet they are mostly dependent on forest resources for their livelihoods. The policy pledges government support in the development of: i) skills and access to employment & livelihood opportunities ii) security of access to forest resources and iii) active participation and sharing of benefits in forest management. This is further reiterated in Policy Statement 5 which provides for Collaborative Forest Management. Fairness of the law from the perspective of community members is depicted in the figure 2 below.

In 2013 and 2014, NFA did not have any case settled out of court. In 2015 and 2016, 31.6% and 36.4% of cases were settled out of Court and fines paid directly to NFA.

Figure2: Degree of fairness of the law



The fairness of the law exhibited under Central Forest Reserves does not cut across to the communally and privately owned forests. This is because the registration / declaration process of communally and privately owned Forests is bureaucratic, lengthy and cyclic in nature. The process requires preparation of a Forest Management Plan that is technical and expensive. All the costs associated with this process are the responsibility of the potential owner without any support from government. The effect of this unfairness is that privately and communally owned natural forests have been progressively converted to farmland which offers high returns from agricultural investment. The State of Forest Report 2016 by the Ministry of Water and Environment notes that in Masindi and Hoima, forests have been converted to sugarcane plantations.

3.0.3 Implementation of the forest laws

In 2013, 2016 and 2017, NFA entered into collaborative forest management arrangements with Kihaimira Collaborative Forest Management Association (KICOFOMA), Matiri Natural Resources User and Income Enhancement Association (MANRUIA) and Mpanga Conservation and Development Association respectively. Other CFM Agreements such as Kajuma-Itwara Forest and Environment Conservation Association (KIFECA) in Kyenjojo was signed in 2012. Although the KIFECA CFM was signed before the FOREST programme, assessment of implementation of the law under the CFMs is discussed using it as

an example. KIFECA members fulfilled their responsibility of tree planting in the 150 hectares of land allocated by NFA as in the picture below. They also routinely monitor the Itwara CFR. However, there are other obligations NFA needs to be mindful of such as the planned KIFECA apiary enterprise.



KIFECA Eucalyptus Plantation. Extreme left is Mr. Ayebazibwe Godius (Chairperson KIFECA, next is Mugisha Marisere LC1 Chairpersons & Mr. Kaberinde Joseph (Lead Monitor -Kyarusozi

Members of KIFECA were allocated space to place their beehives that was found inappropriate. Two years ago, KIFECA members contacted NFA to allocate another place. To-date this has not been done. Failure to meet obligations by NFA was also mentioned in KICOFOMA. This is collaborated with the WEMNET Publication of “Behind the Scenes” where the members of North Budongo Forest Communities Association pointed out that *“we have not benefitted from keeping the forest, the people engaged in illegal activities have built sturdy houses and bought motorcycles. The illegal loggers keep on mocking us about how we are stuck in poverty and they are swimming in riches”*⁷.

show a different picture. 70% of them think that implementation is effective, 29% said it is not effective and 1% do not know. This high percentage arises due to the perception that implementation of the law is about fighting illegal activities only.

3.0.4 Annual reductions in forest degradation

Reporting on the annual reduction in forest degradation is an uphill task because the available data is for 1990, 2005, 2010 and 2015. Even so, the data is for national level and not disaggregated according to districts which makes it difficult to quantify reductions in degradation in the target areas. However, the programme advocated for opening of forest boundaries in Matiri, Kaweeri, Muhangi, Buhungiro, Ibambaro, Kitechura, Kangombe, Bugoma among others. This was done alongside eviction of forest encroachers and the forests are regenerating.

Illegal forest resource use/ extraction

According to the CARE and JESE Baseline Survey 2014, 90% of the respondents had ever been involved in illegal resource extraction and only 10% were arrested. The Impact Study found out that 28.2% of the respondents had been involved in illegal resource extraction and 22.8% were arrested and penalized. Charcoal burning and grazing in CFRs that were at 5.1% and 2.7% have been substantially reduced. This is due to increased awareness of the forest laws, vigilance in monitoring by CBMs and increased penalization of forest criminals from 10% to 22.8%. Although WEMNET⁸ notes that “cultivation in CFRs is still on-going in some parts of Kibego Forest by evictees from Kangombe CFR” and RAC agrees that “Encroachment in Ibambaro, Kitecura CFRs is on a monthly basis” there is an overall encroachment reduction from 13.6% to 4.4%.

Findings from the house hold survey where the majority of respondents were not members of CFMs

⁸ WEMNET-U: End of Month Report- April 2017.

3.0.5 Improvements in the quantity and quality of public forestry services delivered

The programme supported preparation of the National Forestry and Tree Planting Regulations, 2016 that provide guidance on registration of private forests under Section 63.

The National Forest Authority provided 67Kgs of seeds and potting materials to Kyenjojo District for 10 community nurseries. This facilitated access to affordable seedlings by community members. In Kabarole District, the advocacy efforts of the programme resulted into recruitment of a Forest Ranger and a budgetary increment of 500,000/= per quarter. In Kyenjojo, a District Council Resolution to replace Fisheries Officers with Forestry Officers was passed. The recruitment process is in the final stages.

In Kyegegwa District, significant progress has been made in budgetary allocation to the Forestry Department. In 2012/ 2013 budgetary allocation was 2 million Shillings. Subsequent annual budgetary allocations were 4, 6, 9, 14 and 54 million Shillings in 2017/ 2018. This presents a budgetary increment of 2700% since FOREST programme started. Of the 54 million Shillings, 45 million Shillings is for establishment of tree nurseries and 9 million is for operations. The high investment in tree nurseries will enhance access to subsidised seedlings by community members.

3.1 Objective One

Civil society coordination, networking and multi-stakeholder collaboration leading to inclusive management of forest resources.

3.1.1 Level of involvement of Civil Society Organisations in forestry sector networks and alliances at local, national, regional and international levels

A number of platforms for civil society coordination and networking exist in the forestry sector. The FOREST Partners are linked to such platforms both as members and hosts. ACODE and Environment Alert (EA) are members of the Uganda Forest Working Group (UFWG) hosted by EA. Under the UFWG, ACODE implements a sub-component related to forest governance. This sub-component is linked to the Uganda Forest Governance Learning Group (UFGLG) hosted by ACODE and EA is a member. ACCU, JESE and ACODE are members of the ENR-CSO network that is hosted by EA. JESE and EA are members of the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) that undertakes action research on indigenous crops, policy reviews and advocacy. These and several other networks offer opportunities for strategic linkages, information sharing and cross learning.

ACODE in collaboration with Action Aid Uganda, Environmental Alert, and International Union for Conservation of Nature and World Wide Fund for Nature under the auspices of CAN-U and ENR CSO Network organized a civil society preparatory workshop on COP 22. The joint organisation of events by national and international CSOs is a clear demonstration that collaboration and networking towards improved forest governance has been realised.

FOREST Programme established several platforms for galvanising voices of the citizenry and forest sector actors for transparent and accountable forest governance. Some of the platforms established include: the Annual Media – ENR CSOs Learning Forum; the Boot Camp; the Forest Conferences such as Kibaale Forest Conference and the “Forest Week” where several activities are carried out preceding the National Celebrations of the International Forests Day.

FOREST Programme supported the ENR CSO Network Secretariat to strengthen the Network, improve networking and consolidate advocacy initiatives. A total of 5 sub-national ENR CSO Coalitions were established in Masindi, Kabarole, Hoima, Kiryandongo and Buliisa and are functional. Through these

Coalitions, capacity development of members is undertaken, advocacy issues identified, synthesized and civil participation in forestry policy advocacy processes coordinated. Further, a total of 243 CSOs/groups at District and national level have been mobilised.

It is worth mentioning that forest adjacent communities have formed the Uganda Collaborative Forest Resource Users Association (UNETCOFA) to build a strong voice. FOREST Programme has supported the strengthening of the UNETCOFA to enhance legitimacy and representativeness. This Association amplifies community voices while ensuring that forest issues identified at local levels become a subject of debate at national and international levels through the functional linkages.

Multi-stakeholder collaboration was also evidenced during the Round Table Dialogue organized by ACODE that was attended by different categories of stakeholders. These included the Environment and Natural Resources Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA), civil society organizations, private sector, media and development partners, Uganda Investment Authority, Uganda National Bureau of Standards, Uganda Export Promotions Board, Uganda Industrial Research Institute and the China-Africa Friendship Association-Uganda. During this Dialogue a number of researches were disseminated. They included: A diagnostic Study on Chinese Investments and their Effects on Forest Land Use in Uganda; Uganda's Green Growth Development Strategy; and Analysis of the Law Enforcement Agencies in Uganda's Forestry Sector by ACCU.

On a negative note, the two national level stakeholders NFA and FSSD have not been well coordinated and have held contradictory positions and priorities on some forest concerns. For example, FSSD is against de-gazettlement of urban forests under the local government, instead prefers utilizing them as urban greens/ recreation centres. NFA however supports District Local Governments in pursuit of de-gazettlement. FSSD accuses NFA of conniving with the District Local Government to push for de-gazettlement (*Source: ACODE 2016*). In addition, during the Impact Study FSSD was totally surprised that NFA has not yet paid the patrolmen, yet this has been discussed in several meetings.

3.1.2 Inter-district Multi-stakeholder Forum

In the three districts of Mubende, Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa there exists an active Inter-district Multi-stakeholder Forum that has made progress in ensuring forest governance. This is attested to by an NFA official who pointed out that “*one of the significant outcomes of the programme is the creation of informed stakeholders with networks and contacts to coordinate law enforcement*” as illustrated below.

Situation in 2014	Situation 2017
 <p>The working relationship between NFA and DFS was often characterized by mutual distrust and suspicion.⁹ There was breakdown of coordination and feedback mechanisms between the Sub-counties, the responsible officers at NFA and districts. The district authorities accused the NFA officials of operating independently despite rampant illegal activities. This inadequate coordination was largely attributed to selfish interests and corrupt tendencies in handling illegal forest transactions in timber, charcoal and encroachment on forest land¹⁰."</p>	 <p>The relationship has tremendously improved. The two parties are currently complimenting each other not only towards a common goal but also strengthening synergy and harmonizing approaches. This has made LG and NFA more effective in handling forest governance issues. The situation is much better in the districts of Mubende, Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa where the Inter-district Multi-stakeholder Forum is fully functional.</p>

The above changes have benefitted people who trade in forest products. Before the programme, the licenses/ transportation permits issued by NFA to the traders would not be recognized by the DFS and vice versa. This resulted into double taxation and exploitation of traders. Currently, DFS is the clearing house for transportation of all forest products even those from the CFRs. Once a transportation permit has been issued by the DFO, a copy is sent to the Sector Manager NFA who in turn contacts the DFO to confirm authenticity of the permit. Such examples have motivated stakeholders to come together as shown by the number of functional multi-stakeholder fora that rose from 8 in 2013 to 63 in 2016.(Source: CARE Database).

The Inter-district Multi-stakeholder Forum not only has established local networks but also networks at international level. At national level, the Forum participated in a workshop on enhancing forestry tenure organized by FAO and the Ministry of Water and Environment in Kasese District while at international level an information sharing meeting with the Kenya Forest Department Services was hosted at the request of the NFA. Nine (9) members of the Forum (1 woman and 8 men) participated in a study and exchange programme to IMARISHA - Naivasha in Kenya which exposed them to further learning. Other achievements of the Forum are described under **Success Story Two, Annex 4.**

3.1.3 Transparency, Accountability in permits to exploit and revenues from forest resources

Nation-wide consultations for revising the forest fees were conducted by the Forest Sector Support Department of MWE with support from CARE. The views gathered were incorporated in Statutory Instrument no. 16 of 2000, a draft was produced and shared for further comments.

In Kyarusozi Sub-county, Kyembogo and Kyarusozi Town Council, the CBMs and Sub-county Chairpersons demanded for copies of timber harvesting licenses to enable them identify illegal actors. Currently, CBMs are provided with copies from the DFOs office unlike before.

⁹ Destroying the Country's Ecological Heritage! Confronting the Looming Crisis in Uganda's Forestry Sector

¹⁰ CARE & JESE Baseline Report

On several occasions JESE has been co-opted by NFA to participate in verification of applicants for tree harvesting licences at national level.

3.2 Objective Two:

Civil society effectively monitoring and advocating for appropriate forestry laws and regulations

Monitoring is mainly carried out by CBMs, members of the CFM groups and community members. The CBMs and members of CFM mostly report through the ICT SMS Gateway, Call Centre or directly to the CSO Implementing Partners and Collaborators. Issues are consolidated by the CSOs and presented in public accountability fora or through dialogue meetings at district and national level.

Community members that are neither CBMs nor members of CFM groups on the other hand rarely use the ICT Platform and instead find it easier to report to the Executives of Forest User-groups due to their accessibility, to NFA because of the improved relationship and the understanding that Central Forest Reserves are under the mandate of NFA and also the LC3 Chairpersons. The media has also played a crucial part in monitoring by investigating and informing the CSOs and the general public. The findings of investigative journalism are used by CSOs to dialogue with government. This is further discussed in the preceding sections.

3.2.1 Extent and quality of Civil Society monitoring of implementation of forest sector policies and legislations

Quantitative data from the Impact Study indicates that 49.4% of the community members monitor on a weekly basis, while 31.4% do it monthly, 11.4 % on a quarterly basis, 3.8% on a bi-annual basis and only 4% annually. These statistics show high vigilance of community members in protecting forest resources. The monitoring aforementioned is usually accompanied by reporting cases to preferred structures and duty bearers in forest governance. The CARE Harmonised Framework shows that a total of 1009 were reported in 2015 and 2016 of which 232 were addressed by duty bearers. This accounts for 23 % of cases resolved.

Under Rwenzori Anti-corruption Coalition (RAC), a total of 727 cases were reported from the year 2014 to March 2017. Of these, 625 cases were addressed and this accounts for 86% of cases addressed. The details of the cases are attached as **Annex 1**.

Information got from the household survey, shows that the response to case reported is 63.4% and non-response is at 36.6%. This is good progress given *that “the level of responsiveness and feedback from duty bearers on reported cases of illegal activities was less than 30% in 2012/13”* (CARE and JESE Baseline Survey). The 63.4% response as per the Impact Study is close to what was reported in the FOREST Quarterly Report of Oct-Dec 2016 where the response rate was at 65%.

The explanation for higher case resolution (86%) under RAC compared to 23% for cases reported through the ICT Platform is that the closer the IP is to the point where the offence was committed, the easier it is to consistently follow-up. It was also revealed that when the SMS Gate way was still operational, it was easier for the district based IPs and collaborators to follow-up cases because they would have the information. With the Call Centre, they are left out and all follow-up is done from Kampala.

Responsiveness by duty bearers on forest governance issues raised by stakeholders is substantiated by the following:

- The dialogues on illegal land titling in CFRs led to cancellation of 154 illegal land titles, contributed to improved coordination and enhanced discussions between the Ministry of Water and Environment and Ministry of Lands on issuance of land titles.
- The CBMs of Kigarale Sub-county, Kyenjojo District participated in a dialogue with leaders, timber and charcoal dealers to streamline the timber cutting and charcoal burning operations in the Sub-county. As a result, Kigarale Sub-County passed a Council Resolution suspending all charcoal licensing and burning activities and the use of power saws in the Sub-county till 2015, to allow regeneration /recovery and stabilization of the environment.
- The Surveillance Unit of NFA was disbanded by the NFA Board of Directors because the officers were reported by the CBMs to have been involvement in illegal activities.
- The arrest and eventual dismissal of the Forest Supervisor for Nsozi Beat in Bugoma Central Forest Reserve in Hoima was a result of the work of CBMs unearthing and reporting the connivance of the Supervisor with illegal timber dealers.
- Community Based Monitors (CBMs) have on several occasions been involved in joint field verification with the implementing partners, DFOs, NFA staff and in some instances, the NFA Executive Director.
- Encroachment pressures on Rwentama Forest Reserve promoted by the Kiyuni Sub-county Chairperson were averted through continuous follow up by CBMs.

Revisiting cases reported through the Call Centre, 172 cases were for the period of 1st October 2015 to 31st October 2016 as shown in the table 4 below (Source: ACCU):

Analysis of figures for timber cutting, charcoal burning and their subsequent transportation in **table 4** below reveals that the ratio of reported cases of timber cutting to cases of timber transportation is 13:21 while that of charcoal burning to charcoal transportation is 7:19 implying that fewer cases are identified and reported at the crime scenes. One of the reasons for this is that some of the monitors live as far as ten (10) kms from the forest resources which they are expected to monitor. Examples include monitors in Kagadi Town Council and Nyamarunda Sub-county for Kagombe CFR. These monitors depend on their friends and relatives to alert them of the illegal activities. Further, the monitors have reservations of getting closer to the point where timber cutting is taking place. They would rather wait near a trading centre where there are many people for purposes of camouflaging and report loaded trucks in transit. The disadvantage with this is that it lacks a preventive element. “Once a tree has been cut, we have lost it.”

Table 4: Cases reported via Call Centre for the period Oct. 2015 – Oct 2016

Type of case	No. of cases reported	No. of cases resolved	Percentage of resolved cases	No. of cases unresolved	Percentage of unresolved cases
Timber cutting	13	2	15.4	11	84.6
Timber transport	21	2	9.9	19	90.1
Charcoal burning	7	0	0	7	100
Charcoal transportation	19	4	21.1	15	78.9
Encroachment	47	10	21.3	37	78.7
Power saw use	8	1	12.5	7	87.5
Others	57	26	45.6	31	54.4
Total	172	45	26.2	127	73.8

3.2.2 Media Engagement to address forest governance issues

The capacity of media outlets and individual journalists to amplify forest governance issues

The programme through partnership with PANOS mobilized and built the capacity of 10 journalists from 8 rural radio stations and 2 from national media houses (KFM and The Observer)¹¹ in reporting forest governance issues. Some of the trained journalists in turn trained other staff from their respective media houses, an example being Tugume John Bosco of SPICE FM. Resulting from the capacity development the following were realized:

- Three of the trained journalists were bonded as stringers to The Daily Monitor Publications and UN Radio Swahili Service both of which are national level media houses.
- Contestation of land between NFA and the Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom where the Omukama of Bunyoro leased part of the Bugoma CFR to Hoima Sugar Company Ltd. was amplified by five of the major media houses in Uganda (The New Vision, The Daily Monitor, NTV, NBS and WBS Televisions) This compelled the Minister of Lands Hon. Betty Amongi to make a tour of the Bugoma CFR in April 2017 in a bid to resolve the conflict. The Minister confirmed that: the Kingdom boundary was in the heart of the CFR and the forest had been demarcated many years ago. The Minister concluded that the land title being contested was given in error and should therefore be cancelled¹². She also promised to advise Cabinet to revisit the Restitution of the Kingdom Properties.
- SPICE FM adopted the strategy of broadcasting on internet which increased coverage since it can be accessed online.
- SPICE FM was established targeting women and youth with a content focus on entertainment and economic development. It was a result of the FOREST Programme that governance started featuring on the radio's programmes. Presently, there is one-hour programme on "Spice Focus" or "Ensonga Omubantu translated as "Issues in the Community" that broadcasts environmental issues every Sunday (1:00-2:00 pm) and forest issues once a month. Other permanent media 'spaces' for discussion of forest governance issues created include the Round Table aired on KFM; "Omulimi Omugezi" aired on BBS; "Lumira" aired on Kasese Guide Radio; "Environment, Forestry Conservation" programme on KKCR FM every Saturday 11:00 – 12noon and Community Green Radio (CGR) that broad casts forest issues three times a week. These programmes need to be popularised because there are many competing radio stations and listenership to a particular programme may not be guaranteed. CGR and SPICE F.M frequently play the song by XY¹³ that promotes forest governance and this has greatly impacted on the youth making them friends of forests and nature in general.
- FOREST Programme engaged WEMNET to further tap into investigative journalism and to improve the level of reporting on forest governance issues especially in the print and TV media houses. Reporters from the Daily Monitor, NTV Uganda, New Vision, NBS TV and KFM Radio under WEMNET undertook investigative journalism on Zoka CFR in Adjuman District in 2016. They established that part of the CFR had been earmarked for allocation to a sugarcane growing investor and a lot of forest plundering by UPDF was on-going. The Zoka concerns were amplified in the major media houses and the Forest Governance Learning Group used the Zoka- WEMNET report as an advocacy tool. This resulted

¹¹ PANOS (2016): End of Project Report

¹² WEMNET-U: End of Month Report April 2017.

¹³ XY is mentioned under success story one.

into: (i) Appointment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee by the Prime Minister to look into the matter of Zoka (ii) appointment of Committee by the UPDF Leadership to investigate the involvement of the army in illegal activities in Zoka and (iii) a public pronouncement was made by the Minister of Water and Environment that Zoka Forest would not be taken for sugarcane growing.

- Investigative journalism gave concrete evidence to the FOREST Partners that shaped the dialogue with MWE and exposed corruption at Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MoLHUD). As such, a campaign on cancelation of illegal land titles was mounted leading to cancellation of 154 land titles by MoLHUD and 200 more land titles are undergoing validation. WEMNET has constantly informed the public of forest issues and has influenced other players such as ACCU and UFGLG to further investigate land titling in reserves. As a result petitions and memoranda on the issue of illegal land titling in CFRs have been submitted by ACCU and ACODE. The Commission has taken keen interest and put some politicians on the spot.
- Illegal traders of the back for *Prunus Africana* were arrested by the Uganda Police Force following a story in the daily monitor and on radio <http://www.simba.fm/2014/03/14/police-arrests-man-said-to-be-behind-the-smuggling-of-the-anti-cancer-tree>.
- The support got from the FOREST Programme by WEMNET was a spring board that enabled WEMNET to access funding from the Independent Development Fund for an 18 months forest governance project.

Arising out of the programme was the establishment of a loose coalition, “the Albertine Environmental Reporters’ Network” comprised of journalists employed by partner Media houses in the Albertine Rift Region (Kasese, Kamwenge, Kabarole, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Kibaale, Hoima, Buliisa and Masindi Districts); CBMs and members of CFM groups as citizen journalists. The network intends to:

- Ensure the spaces allocated to Forest governance / ENR issues by partner media houses are sustained beyond the programme life span.
- Sustain the watch dog role in the Forest/ENR sector as well as undertake journalists’ rights defence role in the region.

Although the Albertine Environmental Reporter Network is not yet registered legally the members have developed a 3-year plan.

Extent and Quality of Media Coverage of Forestry Governance issues

Resulting from this programme coverage of forestry governance issues gained prominence as summarised in the table 5 below.

Indicator	Category	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of media houses amplifying forest governance issues	(TV, Radios and print)	17	70	56	60
Number of media articles, interviews, clips, debates, Public announcements, features, produced and or conducted	Articles	40	87	125	131
	Interviews	0	5	23	16
	Clips	0	0	9	2
	Debates	0	55	148	172
	Public Service announcements	50	4	21	54
	News Features	0	3	21	68
	Radio messages	0	0	0	28

From table 5 above, it can be seen that media articles, debates, new features have been steadily increasing since 2013. The number of media houses amplifying forest governance issues increased by 353 % between 2013 and 2016.

Use of social media for advocacy was a strategy promoted by the programme to engage wider audiences. Through twitter a number of hash tags including #ugandasforests, #SaveBugoma, #SaveZoka were initiated and advocacy messages posted.

A campaign focusing on saving Bugoma CFR where a land title of over 5000 hectares was issued to Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom to pave way for sugarcane growing was posted on hash tag #SaveBugoma. In 1½ months the campaign yielded 1,552 tweets and 973,162 impressions.

The social media campaign using #ugandasforests focusing on saving the forests from being converted into sugarcane plantations and urban development yielded 586 tweets and 8,737,941impressions in three (3) months. During the National Forestry Consultative Forum, audiences beyond participants in the forum were engaged through the Twitter handle #Ugandasforests that yielded a total of 914 tweets and 3,126,650 impressions. In total social media yielded 3,052 tweets and 12,837,753 impressions in nine months which on average is 4,206 impression/impact per tweet. These campaigns increased NFA response to issues of concern and raised awareness of leaders and other stakeholders beyond Uganda such as FAO and Climate Change Platform.

3.2.3 Available monitoring mechanisms and their effectiveness in tracking illegal activities

In a Study Brief on the Analysis of Law Enforcement Agencies by ACCU, the following law enforcement agencies/ groups responsible for ensuring that Uganda's Permanent Forest Estate is well protected and conserved were identified: Environmental Protection Police Unit, Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces. NFA Surveillance Unit (that was disbanded), NFA Law Enforcement Unit, Uganda Wild Authority (UWA), NFA Field Staff, District Forest Staff, NFA Patrol men and Voluntary Community Based Structures.

Under this section, mention is made of Environmental Protection Police Unit (EPPU) and Patrol men. The EPPU was inaugurated in December 2011 and became functional in 2012. The EPPU has a total force of 153 officers out of which 50 are attached to forestry and are expected to provide support to 506 CFRs" (ACCU, 2015). Limited financial and human capacity affects their operation capability. For instance in Mubende District there is no Environmental Protection Police instead there are two (2) UPDF staff attached to NFA. In Hoima District there are three (3) EPPs while in Kyenjojo, the EPP officer was transferred and his replacement only worked for two months and left. At the time of the Impact Study, Kyenjojo has not had any EPP presence for the last five months.

The Patrol men are community based foot soldiers employed by NFA at a modest allowance of 70,000/= per month. These work alongside the CBMs. Currently, most of them are demotivated and their levels of monitoring have gone down due to delayed payment of their allowances by NFA. Some patrol men are demanding payment of over two years. NFA has also not availed them copies of their employment contracts thus creating mistrust and suspicion that NFA will never pay them. Should they decide to seek legal redress they have no proof of employment.

In light of this, monitoring is mainly done by CBMs and members of CFMs. The effectiveness in tracking illegal activities is to some extent affected by the perceptions of the different categories of stakeholders towards each other. These perceptions have been summarised in form of a role play script in **Annex 2**.

3.2.4 Participation of civil society organizations in institutionalized forest policy formulation or planning processes at local and national level

"Participation of CSOs in the above processes has been so good that we are always accused by other government officials of being in bed with NGOs" (Interview FSSD Official).

The National Forest Consultative Forum: For 11 years since 2003, only one (1) Annual National Forest Consultative Forum (an accountability forum) had been organized. In 2014, the Forum was re-launched with support from the FOREST Programme. For the subsequent years 2015, 2016 and 2017 CARE, ACODE, ACCU, JESE, WEMNET, Environmental Alert, PANOS Eastern Africa, IUCN and WWF organized the National Consultative Forum in partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment as part of the World Forest day activities. During these Fora, CSOs implored the MWE to put aside funds for organising the Forum because it is a legal requirement. In 2017 FSSD made a financial contribution of 18 million Shillings towards the organisation of the Forum. This is evidence that duty bearers are taking up proposals from CSOs. (Source: Interview at ACODE).

CSO-ENR Network through Environmental Alert has been organising CSOs to participate in the Joint Sector Review processes organised by Ministry of Water and Environment. Through performance assessment of the Sector the Network recommended undertakings for 2013/2014.

Members of the CSO-ENR Network contributed to the drafting of the Civil Society Position Paper, participated in the Joint Sector Review for 2014/2015 and influenced adoption of 3 undertakings by the Ministry of Water and Environment for FY 2015/2016. The Undertakings were: demarcation of forest boundaries to reduce on the level of illegalities and fast-tracking the formulation of the Climate Change Bill. As a result, NFA made a financial commitment to demarcate 13 Central Forest Reserves with concrete pillars and the following has been done:

- The contentious parts of Bugoma CFR were re-opened, mark stones fixed and live boundary markers planted.
- In Bujawe, money for re-opening was secured and work is in progress.
- In Kangombe CFR, work stalled due to irregularities in the procurement process. The surveyor abandoned the work despite having been paid 100%.
- Matiri CFR was re-opened and mark stones fixed.

The ENR-CSO Network Secretariat (Environmental Alert in collaboration with UNDP organised a meeting to select CSO representatives for REDD+ Government structures and the Inclusive Green Growth for Poverty Reduction Program (IGG4PR).ACODE was made the Alternate ENR-CSO Representative on the Board and CARE was selected on the National REDD+ Committee as an expert in gender and advocacy. CARE is also a member of the National Forest Standards Group. These given platforms influence national actions that are linked with international agenda.

ACODE participated in a meeting on Uganda's Forest Investment Plan (FIP) in January 2017 that was intended to generate views from CSOs on the FIP priorities and investment projects and the role of CSOs in FIP design and implementation. The purpose of Uganda's FIP is to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through investments that aim to reduce pressure on natural forests, enhance forest ecosystem services, improve coordination and governance in the forest sector.

Three programme partners ACODE, ACCU and JESE are members of the national FLEGT Committee. This gives them a platform to input into on-going processes particularly at national level.

FOREST Programme through ACCU supported the Standard Development Group (SDG)¹⁴ hosted by Environmental Alert to undertake stakeholder consultation on the draft National Forest Stewardship

¹⁴ The SDG comprise of the Economic Chamber which representation of private sector, Social Chamber of which CARE is a member, Environment Chamber

Standard (NFSS) before submission to the International Forest Stewardship Council. The Standards will go a long way to enhance responsible forest management, promote transparency in trade of forestry products hence reducing incidences of illegal activities and illegal timber on the market.

CARE and the Implementing Partners contributed to the review of the following Strategic Documents: National Forestry and Tree Planting Regulations 2016; The National Development Plan 2014/15-2019/20; The National Environment Management Policy; The National Environment Management Act and the Sustainable Development Goals/post 2015.

3.2.5 Advocacy initiatives linking local issues to national and international level policy/practice

One of the strategies employed to achieve the programme immediate objectives was to support and promote local forestry advocacy issues and link them to national and global levels. This was based on the understanding that Forest governance problems are not unique to Uganda and there are opportunities for sharing information, approaches and experiences with other countries to find lasting solutions. The advocacy initiatives discussed below were informed by issues reported by CBMs and CFM members. In addition, local issues were captured through rural community radio debates and these were broad cast.

FOREST Programme supported the organisation of a retreat for the MWE technical and political teams to reflect upon the sector and take stock of key issues affecting water and environment. Arising out of this was the *Ministerial recommitment* to address governance issues through signing a compact named the “*Victoria Nile commitment*.”

Finalization and approval of National Forestry and Tree Planting Regulations is one of the advocacy initiatives that got a lot of input from the implementing partners. Since 2003, not any discussion had been held on the Operationalisation of the Tree Fund. This was brought back on the agenda as a result of the FOREST Programme. A Roadmap and Terms of Reference for developing the Tree Fund Guidelines were finalised and await approval.

FOREST Partners also contributed to the development of the East African Food Security and Nutrition Policy. Still at regional level, CARE participated in the food security conference organised by United Nations Environment Programme. The resolutions from the conference were presented and endorsed. by the African Ministerial Council on Environment (AMCEN) on supporting Ecosystems Based Approaches (EBA) for food security.

3.3 Objective Three

Civil society organizations empowering vulnerable citizens to participate in governance of forest resources in specific areas under threat

Information is power. Informed citizens are better equipped to take advantage of opportunities, access services, exercise their rights, negotiate effectively, and hold state and non-state actors accountable. (Source: World Bank Group). In light of this, the Impact Study sought to establish the levels of awareness and knowledge of forest legislations as a pre-requisite for demanding for rights to access forest resources and as an indicator of empowerment.

3.3.1 Level of awareness and knowledge of forest policies and laws

Among community members

The CARE and JESE baseline study of 2014 established that with the exception of forestry staff, over 65% of the respondents did not completely understand the forest policies and laws and 35% had an understanding of the policies and laws. The impact study found out that 18% of respondents understand the forest laws and policies very well, 19 % understand them well, 35% fairly well, 21% not well and only

7% do not understand the laws and policies at all. The programme has therefore contributed to increased levels of awareness and knowledge of forest policies and laws from 35% to 93% representing an increment of 58%.

Knowledge of forest policies and laws among Community Based Monitors (CBMs)

The same baseline survey referred to above, noted that CBMs were not knowledgeable on the relevant forestry policies and laws but had general knowledge that the law provides for timber harvesting and charcoal burning under license. The impact study has established that knowledge of forest laws amongst CBMs is at different levels ranging from a score of 20% to 80% with the CBMs recruited earlier scoring an average score of 54.4%, while the average for the new CBMs (who were recruited by the older CBMs), is at an average score of 35%. Before the programme, the knowledge levels ranged from 0-5% with an average of 2% (This extrapolation was made during the Impact Study).

Knowledge of forest policies and laws among Local Government Leaders

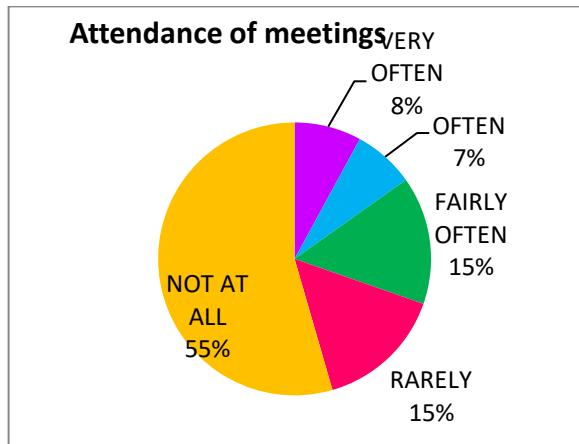
YEAR 2014	YEAR 2017
<p>All the local government leaders in Bageza, Kakabara and Kyarusizi Sub-counties revealed that they have never seen a copy of the Forest Policy and the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act 2003. The little knowledge they have is hear-say and most times wrongly interpreted. "I'm on record for fighting illegal forest activities in Kyenjojo district but I hear that people are supposed to have licenses before they go to harvest timber in any forest; I do not know what a license looks like, I do not know exactly which laws are applicable in handling illegal activities. I'm very sure all other leaders in my sub-county and other sub-counties do not understand these laws as well.</p> <p>When I report illegal movement of timber from my Sub-county to forestry staff at the district, I'm only told that it is the mandate of the National Forestry Authority and not the district. At the moment there is a lot of illegal timber cutting in Kibego Central Forest Reserve, we do not know where these timber cutters have come from. This is happening with knowledge of the forestry staff. My efforts have been frustrated and I do not know where else to report and handle the illegal activities beyond the district. It looks like everybody in the line of reporting is involved in the illegal timber transactions and at this rate all forests will be destroyed in a few years to come," says Chairperson Kyarusizi Sub county.</p>	<p>Before the project started, I was a Sub-county Chairperson. I did not know of any forest laws although I knew the Land laws. I did not know that there was a procedure for accessing timber that involved, marking the trees for cutting, determining the cubic meters, the species and the equipment to be used. I never used to think that there was something wrong with cutting a tree from a nearby forest. It had never occurred to me that if a natural forest is located on someone's land, he needed to register it. I would not differentiate a CFR, a Local Forest Reserve and a privately owned forest.</p> <p>I did not know that there was a local forest reserve in my Sub-county. All these I learnt in the training by RAC.</p> <p>RAC even gave us photocopies of some of the sections of the NFTA 2003 although I felt that I needed to have a copy of the entire Act. My thinking is that the NFA and the DFS did not want us to know the laws. We appreciate the work that RAC and the Inter-district Forum are doing otherwise without RAC we would never have known any forest laws," says Amanyia Joseph, the Chairperson for Butiiti Sub-county.</p>

3.3.2 Awareness of rights to access forest resources by poor and vulnerable citizens

The 2014 baseline conducted by CARE and JESE noted that 77% of the respondents were not aware of the **process** involved in accessing forest resources.

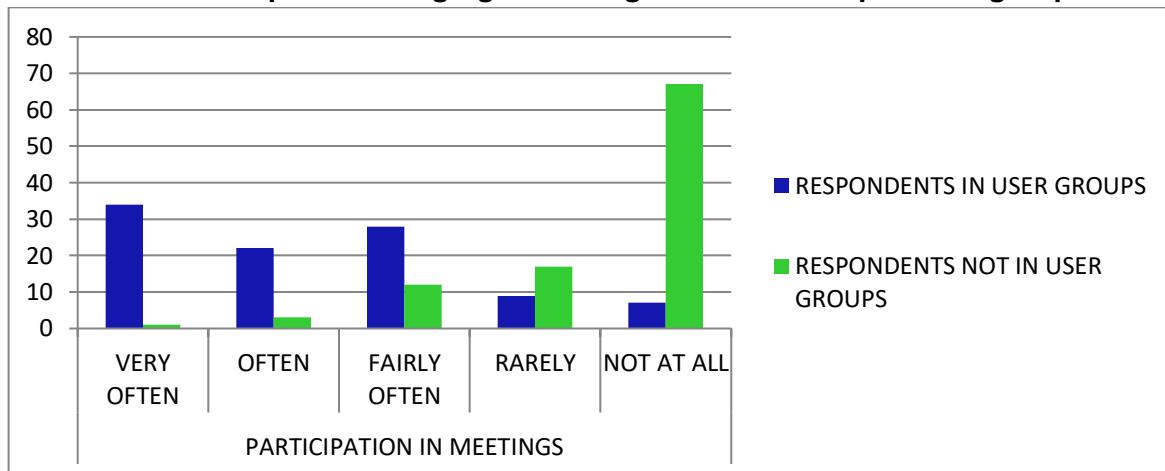
The impact study found out that the percentage of respondents who do not know that there is a **process** involved in accessing forest resources had reduced by 27 %. Interestingly 46% of the respondents **who are not** members of user groups were aware of the process for accessing forest resources. The impact study further established that the percentage of respondents who access forest resources at **no cost** has reduced from 97% to 81.8%. Reference is also made to the responsibilities of the community members in forest governance because every right has a corresponding responsibility. In light of this, respondents were required to explain their level of participation in meetings of forest governance.

The findings are shown in the **pie-chart 4** below



The percentage of respondents who do not attend meetings at all is at 55%. This when desegregated reveals that 67% of respondents who do not belong to user groups compared to 7% of members of user groups do not attend meetings at all as shown in Bar chart 5 below:

Bar chart 5: Participation desegregated along the membership in user groups.



The Impact Study further revealed that 48% of the members of user groups fulfil their forest governance responsibilities to a great extent while 4% do not fulfil their responsibilities at all. On the contrary, only 12% of the respondents that are non-user group members fulfil their forest governance responsibilities to a great extent and 45% do not at all. The interpretation of this is that the awareness raising implemented under the FOREST programme reached the masses and resulted into behavioural change and practice irrespective of whether they belonged to resource user groups or not.

3.3.3 Representation of poor and vulnerable citizens dependent on forest resources in governance of forest resources

Poor and vulnerable citizens dependent on forest resources are represented in Collaborative Forest Management Groups that are recognised by forest legislation. Under CFMs the rights, entitlements, responsibilities and benefits of the respective parties are clarified. This creates a strong sense of ownership of the forest resource and motivates the community members to effectively participate in protection of the forest. Under CFMs women are encouraged to be members in their own right. In KIFECA out of 154 members, 52 are women. In Kidukuru Sub-group (under MANRUIA) the Vice-chairperson is a woman and in Mpanga Conservation and Development Association out of 80 members, 26 are women and the group treasurer is a woman. In MANRUIA, the membership is 428, 199 women and 229 men. In many instances, both the husband and wife are members and in the event of separation, the “ex-wife”

remains a member as long as she remains committed to the group and participates in the activities of the User Group.

District Networks for Community Based Monitors

The programme has a pool of 778 Community based monitors (CARE Database) who actively monitor and report forest illegalities and human rights aspects on voluntary basis. The CBMs have formed District Networks that are recognized within their respective districts. The availability of such networks has facilitated coordination between monitors in different sub-counties and districts; spread the risk of being singled out and intimidated by the perpetrators of forest crimes and enhanced voice amplification.

Resource User/ Interest Groups

Resource user groups is another avenue through which community members can participate in decision making if they are organized and registered. While the baseline of CARE and JESE found out that charcoal and fuel wood traders were operating as individuals and only united by the locations of the marketing centres, these traders have formed groups and registered them with their respective sub-counties and districts. Examples include: Mubende Environmental Protection Association (MEPA) and Bugaaki Charcoal Dealers Association that were registered in 2014 and 2015 respectively. MEPA has a membership of 120 (80 men & 40 women) while Bugaaki has 43 members (32 men & 11 women). As a result, the groups started voluntary saving and lending amongst members and have plans to start other income generating projects that are more sustainable. Resulting from increased sensitization of the charcoal dealers, revenue collection at Sub-county level has increased by 10% with some of the dealers and transporters paying without being compelled (FOREST Annual Report 2014).

District Level Forest Coalitions

In the districts of Masindi, Kabarole, Hoima, Kiryandongo and Buliisa Natural Resources and Environmental CSO Coalitions were initiated. Although these were supported till March 2016 when the partnership with their National Secretariat (Environmental Alert) was terminated, the Coalitions still exist and offer a platform for participation. The achievements of each of these are detailed in the Outcome Journal attached as **Annex 3**.

3.4 Objective Four

Civil society organizations having increased legitimacy, accountability and transparency through capacity building

While the programme targeted the duty bearers in many aspects, it also required CSOs to make a self-reflection and increase their legitimacy. This meant that capacity had to be conferred from the outside by CARE as much as it was developed from inside by CSOs¹⁵. The capacity from inside is partly measured by level of the Quality Assurance Certification Mechanism certification. The number of partners and CSO members in programme supported networks who meet minimum quality standards of QuAM is four. None of these however was certified during the programme. This also applies to the ENR CSO Network members with QUAM certificates. There are a few reasons to explain this such as:

- In Hoima District, there is no QuAM Committee. Some of the members of MIRAC who have QuAM Certificates are members of the NGO Forum and have direct avenues of going through the QuAM processes by virtue of their members to the NGO Forum.

¹⁵ Ubels Jan et al (2010): Capacity Development in Practice.

- The Lead Agency (Secretariat) of the ENR CSO Network did not have a QuAM Certificate and the organization seemed complacent with starting the processes. As such, it is difficult to encourage members to undertake such a process.

CARE's facilitative role

CARE is highly scored (80%) in respect of her facilitative role due to the following:

Budget flexibility and additions

- ACODE was given an additional 30 million to organize a Judicial symposium. This was very important because of a realization that the Judiciary had been omitted in the programme, yet was a very key player.
- As one of the emerging issues, NFA through ACODE was supported with 49 million for the development of the guidelines for benefit sharing in CFRs.
- CARE honoured ACCU's grant extension worth over 324 Million UGX to increase the number of community based monitors from 52 to 102 due to the increasing levels of illegal activities in Kibaale district.

Technical backstopping

- CARE provided technical backstopping during the development of Policy Briefing Papers and organization of a high level forest dialogue that facilitated incorporation of issues of ENR particularly forest in political party manifestoes.
- CARE has been proving comments to Concept Notes and giving timely feed-back on periodic reports although there has been an issue of understaffing in the last two years.

Capacity development

- The capacity of CARE staff, partner staff and National Forestry Authority staff to scale up advocacy campaigns using social media was developed. This resulted into increased engagement of the public with duty bearers mainly NFA.
- All IPs were trained in the use of outcome journals.
- A Total of thirty (30) CSOs were equipped with technical capacity in participatory forest management

Fundraising support to partners

CARE has been very consistent in providing information on funding opportunities to implementing partners and developing joint proposals. Examples include a proposal on Oil and Gas Governance developed by ACODE, ACCU and CARE and another one for enhancing human rights in mining and petroleum was developed by ACODE and CARE and submitted to the European Union.

Timely release of funds

- This is a mixed picture. Some IPs pointed out that throughout the programme funds were released in a timely manner except in the last two quarters of October– December 2016 and January– March 2017 when delays were experienced.

Other programme stakeholders indicated that there have been frequent delays in release of funds to the extent that some IPs would be advised to borrow internally and refund the money when disbursements are made from CARE. This is not a good practice.

In respect of identification and support of networking opportunities, Implementing partners were required to identify relevant opportunities and seek for support from CARE. This however, was a weak area that

most implementing partners did not follow up, although this, did not stop some implementing partners from networking at international level using funds from other sources.

Outcomes of the capacity development

- All implementing partners have taken up the use of Outcome Journals in their organisations' work without limiting it only to forest governance.
- Arising out of the work on forest governance, ACODE developed a Communication Policy and recruited a Communication's Officer. These have made interactions with the media a lot easy. Implementing Partners started using the social media (facebook and Tweeter) for discussions on forest governance.
- ACODE has become more gender sensitive as reflected in the current reports that have desegregated data for men and women. Further, ACODE's research approach including methods and tools were reviewed to ensure that the voices of women come out prominently unlike before when the researches were conducted in a gender blind manner. Similarly, sector engagement is mainstreamed right at the design of the researches carried out by ACODE.
- JESE has taken up the practice of attaching a Summary Expenditure Sheet on all accountabilities submitted to all partners. This was very impressive to GIZ when they visited JESE for organizational assessment. JESE developed an advocacy strategy that awaits approval of the Board.
- CBM have started using whatsup groups for reporting forest crimes to duty bearers.

Livelihoods and Enterprise development

JESE has been promoting coffee growing under the Department of Enterprise Development and Agriculture. During the REPA programme JESE provided coffee seedlings to community members around Matiri CFR. FOREST Programme supplemented this effort through a financial contribution of 12 million shillings towards supporting value chain development through capacity enhancement. With improved agronomical practices members are realizing coffee earning ranging from 290,000/= to 800,000/= per season. The productivity per acre could not be easily established because some members have their coffee intercropped with matoke and other trees species.



Mr. Bagonza Francis, District Monitor Advisor – Kyenjojo and Lead Monitor – Butunduzi Town Council in his coffee enterprise.

The same groups in Matiri were taught good agricultural practices including desisting from burning vegetation during garden preparation and instead using it as organic manure. As such members have realized increased maize productivity from an average of 500 kgs to an average of 1250 bags. This presents a 250% increment in productivity.

Bee keeping enterprise

Kawaruju –Mahasa Bee-keeping Group (KMBG) is under MANRUIA. KMBG has a total membership of 56 and they have been involved in bee keeping since 2006. Through the FOREST programme, they got linked to Kabarole Bee Keepers Association and got trained. This motivated members to increase the number of bee hives from 86 to 117 while also stepping up management. As a result, productivity increased from an average of 2½ kgs per bee hive to 8 kgs. Members were also assisted in harvesting bee venom which supplements their incomes. KMBG has faced a challenge of thieves who harvest their honey from the forest. The wild animals (bush babies) also destroy their beehives. This challenge has been partly overcome by renting land from a Church where they transfer the beehives after colonisation from NFA land. Mr. Muhwezi Deus, a primary school teacher is one of the members whose experience is highlighted below:

Mr. Muhwezi has 28 personal beehives. In 2016, he harvested 240 kgs of honey and sold them at 2.400.000/=. He harvested bee venom for only three months and got 480,000/=. The total income from the bee enterprise for Mr. Muhwezi for the year 2016 was 2.880,000/=. Had Mr. Muhwezi harvested bee venom throughout the year, he would have earned an extra 1,440,000 /=. He failed to realize this because he does not have the equipment for harvesting bee venom and the person who was doing it for him became unreliable and dishonest. This year Mr. Muhwezi has so far harvested honey once and earned 1,000,000/= from sales. He still has one more time to harvest before the year ends.

Unintended Impact

The forest governance meetings and community structures created through the programme provided avenues for sensitizing the community on other developmental programmes including the importance of quality education, health facilities, water, sanitation and hygiene, clean energy and improved agricultural practices as pointed out below.

In 2014, community members of Matiri successfully advocated for access to safe and clean water. In addition, they demanded for upgrading of Kyakamuranda Heath Centre 11 to HC111 from the district leadership and this was done.

There is improved sanitation and hygiene at household level for members of MANRUIA exemplified by the availability of hand washing facility after using a latrine. There is also a shift from grass-thatched to iron sheet-roofed latrines which keeps the latrines dry and more hygienic.

There is increased uptake of solar energy as a source of lighting by community members. This has arisen out of the realization that solar energy is clean energy. This enables the non-boarding school going children to read/ revise during the night. Recall that in the 2014 National Housing and Population Census, “Tadoba” (small open flame kerosene tin) was the primary and often only the source of lighting for approximately 67% of rural households.

Children / youth from communities adjacent to forests did not take education as a priority. They preferred to spend their time felling and loading timber onto trucks to earn quick money. The money earned was used to buy alcohol and lure young girls and married women into casual sex. This had created many problems in the communities including unwanted and early pregnancies, domestic violence, marriage break-ups and multiple cases of assault. When illegal timber cutting was curtailed as a result of the programme, such acts greatly reduced. This is in agreement with the FOREST Annual Report 2014 where it is noted that *“The observation of Mr. Nsungwa is shared by the criminal investigation officer who says that “the violence in homes was associated to illegal timber cutters who – after being paid by their bosses*

– would embark on drinking in the various bars in Kyarusizi town, fall in love with people’s wives, resulting into fighting and gender based violence.”

Access to quality education: There is a strong desire by parents to have their children access quality education. The parents have progressively moved their children from poor performing government to private schools. Before the programme, parents would only send their children to school but would not take part in monitoring their performance. With the empowerment got from participation in forest governance and exposure during meetings members of user groups are able to monitor and identify the gaps in other social services. Specifically for MANRUIA atleast 20% of the members have moved their children from government to private schools. The aforementioned is supported by the example below:

In 2015 Mr. Kateeba Emmanuel had a child in primary two in a government school. At the beginning of second term, he went and paid a deposit of 5,000/= to the P.2 teacher as part payment for the school dues. A balance of 4,000/= was to be paid after one month. When he went to clear the outstanding balance he met the Head teacher of the school who neither had a clue about the child nor a record indicating that some money had been deposited. What was more surprising was that the child was not in the School Register. The father of the child was told that his child was not in that school. Mr. Kateeba insisted and demanded that the P.2 teacher be called for clarification, because it was him who received the 5000/= deposit. It later emerged that the teacher had the name of the child in another exercise book. This made Mr. Kateeba concerned and he demanded to go to his child's class to ascertain whether the child attends school. Mr. Kateeba found his child seated at the extreme end of the classroom, yet he is short and could not see what was on the teaching board in front. He found out that half the number of pupils were in class but doing their own things while the teacher concentrated on a few pupils who were in the front pews. The failure of the teacher to attend to those pupils was so evident that by 10:00a:m the pupils in the behind seats had already eaten their food for lunch and were only conversing without the teacher noticing. This incident made Mr. Kateeba realize that his child was not getting quality education. He decided to move him to a private school where he pays 45,000/= per term. Mr. Kateeba said that he does not mind paying five times the amount paid in a government school as long as he is assured that his child will get quality education. This critical thinking reflected by Mr. Kateeba is a result of taking part in community meetings and accountability platforms because before he could never take such steps.

Linkages with other programmes

The Kawuruju – Mahasa Bee-keeping Group got support from CDD Fund and bought a Maize Milling Machine which mills for members at subsidized prices and non-members at market price. Plans are underway to get a hauler to improve the quality of the maize flour.

In 2013/2014, MANRUIA got 4,000,000 /= from CDD Fund which was used for production of Coffee Seedlings. Some of which were given to the members at no-cost while others were sold. MANRUIA is currently in partnership with ACODEV to implement a USAID funded project on “**Advocacy for Better Health**” that started in 2014.

KEY OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME BASED ON THE OUTCOME JOURNALS

This section presents key outcomes of the programme based on the outcome journals and these are attached as **Annex 3**

APPROACHES AND STRATEGIES USED IN INFLUENCING FORESTRY POLICIES AND SECURING THE RIGHTS OF THE IMPACT GROUP

A number of strategies were used in influencing policies and these included: strengthening Forest Governance Platforms; Use of ICT Platform; Investigative journalism; Social media campaigns and undertaking Critical Action Research. Their respective appropriateness and effectiveness is summarized in Table 8 below.

Table 6: Appropriateness and effectiveness of the approaches and strategies

Approach	Strategy	Appropriateness	Effectiveness
Promoting Social Accountability through citizens empowerment	Strengthen Public Accountability Platforms while reinforcing them with radio programmes to facilitate follow-up of agreed actions.	They are non-restrictive, accessible and every interested citizen is free to attend. They are sustainable because of the informed and active citizenry who participate both as individuals and forest user-groups to identify, prioritize and press for personal and collective interests.	A number of issues were raised and responded to by the duty bearers such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chainsaws used by licensed timber businessmen to harvest timber were impounded in Kibego CFR. A full list of licensees in Kibego CFR was availed to CBMs following their demand. This enabled them identify people harvesting timber illegally. Encroachers were evicted from Kandanda-Ngobya and Kangombe CFRs in Hoima and Kibaale respectively. Charcoal burning was suspended in Kigarale Sub-county to allow for regeneration of forests. The other achievements that show effectiveness of the strategy are highlighted under section 3.2.7 of the report.
		The strategy enhances vertical and horizontal linkages and facilitates information flow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very effective and empowering to community members, giving the confidence for follow-up. The resolution of cases was at 63.4% (figure from household survey during the Impact Study 2017).
	Working with & through CBMs ¹⁶ by training them in the legislation governing forests and equipping them with monitoring skills and tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These usually have first-hand information and do not require a lot of logistics to monitor due to their proximity to the forest resources. Improves relationships between government and citizens and minimized conflicts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pool of 778 CBMs is in place. These are permanent members within their communities. Even when some migrate, the exodus is not significant, hence sustainability is ensured. They reported cases via the SMS gateway, the Call Centre, through implementing partners and other duty bearers. Under RAC alone, a total of 727 cases were reported from 2014- 1st quarter of 2017.
	Building and strengthening networks (District and CBM).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spreads the risks of victimisation by the forest criminals because they are not able to know with certainty the person that has reported. In other-words, networks provide social and security safety nets for individual CBMs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are legally recognised and they have become the first point of contact for duty bearers in respect of information related to forests.
Use of ICT Tools	Toll Free Call Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of community members with mobile phones was found to be 75%. Therefore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 306 cases were reported via the Call Centre. From 1st Oct. 2015 to April 2017.

¹⁶ This strategy also falls under the public private partnerships.

Approach	Strategy	Appropriateness	Effectiveness
		<p>accessibility to toll free services / ICT Platform was high.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates timely reporting of illegal forest activities to duty bearers. Has an element of damage control rather than post-mortem approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge: sometimes the toll free SMS facility was used for issues not necessarily beneficial to forest governance such as football matches, request for love relationships and others.
	Information sharing via the SMS Gateway	<p>42.2% of household respondents only completed Primary Four and this paused difficulty in writing text messages. None of the Household respondents talked of using the SMS gateway,</p> <p>All CBMs are literate and able to send messages.</p> <p>ACCU provided smart phones but internet connectivity paused challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 703 cases were reported via SMS gateway. Re-directing of the SMS from the central server ensured wider reach to various duty bearers and had checks and balances to overcome compromise of a few duty bearers. Arising out of the use of the ICT platform, one of the CBMs in Mubende, took a personal initiative to start a Whatsapp platform for information sharing. It currently has a membership of 38 members. A similar arrangement for engaging duty bearers has been instituted in Kyenjojo by a CBM. Sometimes evidence was not conclusive because it lacked visual recordings and accompanying photographs. Some community members used to post information that was not related to forest governance such as football matches and requests for love relationships.
Evidence Based Policy Advocacy	<p>Use of critical action research geared at transforming the realities of those involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold policy makers by their own words. 	<p>Provides strong foundation for advocacy where the facts cannot be down played.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases the influence of different stakeholders on the decision making process for forest governance. Strengthens partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the facts and statistics produced were used by government. Provide documented information with clear sources for follow-up. A number of researches were conducted and used for advocacy. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Legal Reforms for Forest Justice in Uganda: Some Lessons from Kenya and Tanzania, by ACODE, preliminary findings have been presented to NFA board. (ii) Understanding illegal activities in Mwenge Plantation in Kyenjojo District. (iii) Analysis of the law enforcement agencies in the forestry sector of Uganda conducted by ACCU. (iv) A diagnostic Study on Chinese Investments and their Effects on Forest Land Use in Uganda. <p>The National Forest Forum, International Day of Forests, World Water and World Meteorology Day activities were organised in partnership with CARE and MWE.</p>

Approach	Strategy	Appropriateness	Effectiveness
Civil Society Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate strategic meetings that are under the docket of duty bearers. 		
	Use of investigative journalism to expose and amplify forest governance issues to the public through various media platforms.	In Uganda, there are several media houses distributed all-over the country. People who cannot access Newspapers or TVs can access radios even from their telephone handsets. The media therefore has very high outreach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led to the appointment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee to address the Zoka concerns. The UPDF Leadership appointed a committee to investigate the involvement of the army in illegal activities in Zoka. The Minister for Water and Environment made a public pronouncement that Zoka Forest would not be taken for sugarcane growing. Brought the issue of Bugoma CFR versus the Bunyoro-Kitara kingdom to light and a fact finding mission was undertaken by the Minister of Lands. 154 illegal titles within the CFRs were cancelled.
	Undertake Social Media Campaigns using #Ugandasforests, #save Bugoma, #save Zoka	Help in generating a variety of useful ideas in an efficient way. Has a very wide outreach that spans from the local to the international level. Brings on board online users and easy to reach duty bearers in non-structured manner.	The social media yielded a total of 3,052 tweets and 12,837,753 impressions. Hence, on average each tweet earned impression/impact of 4,206 in a period of 9 months. These campaigns increased NFA response to issues and raised awareness of leaders and other stakeholders both in-county and beyond.
Public-private partnership	Strengthen the Inter - district Multi-stakeholder Forum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate effective coordination. Nurture working relationships. Provides an avenue for naming and shaming of duty bearers involved or abetting illegal forest activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issue of double taxation for forest products due to the poor working relationship between NFA and DFS was eliminated. Decisions taken are authoritative and enforceable.
	Working with communities through CFM Agreements	<p>Facilitate mobilisation of a critical mass.</p> <p>Strengthen partnerships between citizens and duty bearers.</p>	<p>It was effective on the part of CFM.</p> <p>A changed relationship between community members and NFA staff from “Sight an NFA staff and Hide to Seek an NFA staff and Report illegal activities (From SH to SR).</p>
	Private engagement sector	They have the potential to contribute to forest governance through their social corporate responsibility agenda.	NFA has been weak in meeting her obligations under the CFM. The programme was weak in bringing on board private sector forest owners, except in Multi-stakeholder forum of Kyegegwah, Kyenjojo & Mubende district where Cadwell has pledged 3 million shillings and 2 Laptops and supported communities with seedlings

BEST PRACTICES

- Appointment of CBMs in strategic positions of leadership. The LCIII Chairperson of Butiiti Sub-county (who is also the Sub-county Lead Monitor) appointed two of the CBMs on the Sub-county Land Committee, another CBM on the LCIII Court and the fourth one appointed the Chairperson of Butiiti Heath Centre II.
- Joint planning by implementing partners and peer review enhances synergy and promotes horizontal accountability.
- Coordination and avoidance of overlaps in the programme did not take the traditional approach of spatial/geographical mapping but instead it took into account organizational competencies and “what one does best”.
- The Inter-district Multi Stakeholders’ Forum that is all inclusive is an effective platform for participation, monitoring and consensus building. This is a pre-requisite for forest governance because sentiments of marginalisation that usually fuel lawlessness are eliminated and victimization of district-based organisations and individuals is overcome.

LESSONS LEARNT

- Simultaneous reporting of forest crimes to several duty bearers and civil society activists through the ICTSMS gateway eliminates physical contact, provides checks and balance and deters corruption among duty bearers.
- Stakeholders’ support and participation in monitoring and taking action against forest crimes is a very effective approach for handling forest crimes that are increasingly getting more sophisticated and skewed to land grabbing.
- It is important to work with journalists as partners and not just reporting outlets because this enables them get grounded in issues of forest governance.
- Whenever media platform voice community grievances, duty bearers are compelled to give response on the stated grievances through the same platforms.
- The approach of working closely with duty bearers from the time of conceptualisation of the project facilitates ownership of programme results while engaging diverse stakeholders throughout the research process enhances research credibility.

CHALLENGES

- Engaging the Judiciary was a weak component in the programme. Most magistrates do not take forest governance seriously and tend to give lenient sentences that have no deterrent effect and it most times takes long to conclude cases.
- NFA has been less effective in giving feedback to the CBMs, has not met her obligations under the CFM and ensured timely payment of allowances for patrol men. Some of them are demanding payments for over two years. Further the contractor for the Matiri CFR enrichment planting has not been paid. This is causing discontent amongst members of MANRUIA whose labour he hired. These are demotivating factors for community participation.
- While forest governance has started taking root, the weak governance of wetlands and other fragile ecosystems downplays the benefits accrued from forest governance.
- There was not a single registration / declaration of a privately owned natural forest concluded in the entire programme period and these forests are disappearing at a very fast rate.
- Very high expectations from the stakeholders who wanted support in form of seedlings, bee hives or other forms of livelihoods which were outside the scope of the FOREST programme.
- NFA and UPDF officials connive with people by accepting payment to plant crops in Nyamarunda. Those who cannot pay are chased. The banana plantation that had been planted in the CFR is used to lure girls into sex by the UPDF in exchange for matoke.

- Impunity of politically connected and powerful forest crime perpetrators demotivates community members who put effort in protecting the forest resources.

WEAKNESSES

- Community Based Monitors have no written Terms of Reference for self-appraisals. They also do not have files to store reference materials making retrieval of information difficult.
- There is still limited capacity to write sound reports by media houses despite deliberate attempts to address the issue. While PANOS developed and shared a simplified reporting template with the media houses this was not sufficient.
- In the new district of Kagadi, CBMs did not take the initiative to introduce themselves to the DFS. The DFS staff only came to know about them in a workshop and as such there is very limited collaboration between them.

CONCLUSIONS

The programme has made a great contribution towards increasing the awareness and knowledge of forest related legislation for both the leaders and the led. The vigilance and voluntarism exhibited by community members in monitoring forest resources is commendable. Multi-stakeholder participation in forest governance has resulted into a paradigm shift in the relationship between the NFA staff and community members. Gone are the days of the “Cat and Rat” when community members would run to hiding places at the sight of an NFA official irrespective of whether they had committed a forest offence or not. Instead community members seek the NFA officials to report cases of illegality. The use of SMS, coupled with Public Accountability Fora and dialogue with duty bearers have enhanced transparency and accountability among duty bearers. Evidence based advocacy has been enhanced through investigative journalism and critical action research. The issues of forest governance have been amplified in all media houses despite the involvement of “giants” who are politically connected. Duty bearers particularly NFA, is progressively becoming more transparent although the response towards raised forest issues needs improvement. Platforms to raise issues from the local level through national to international level exist and are functional. The finding that Charcoal burning and grazing in most CFRs has been totally eliminated is very refreshing. The programme has saved some forests and more will be saved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Justice Sector should be brought on board to enable them appreciate forest issues and the importance of evoking sections of the law that are sufficiently punitive. This requires establishing a coordinating centre where stakeholders convene for update on implementation of forest laws.
- Institute a system of giving rewards to individuals (citizens) who help government to successfully prosecute the offenders as is the case in Tanzania.
- Strengthen intra- information sharing mechanisms within NFA concerning CSO projects.
- Future Forest programmes should maintain Coordination Committees where a representative of NFA is co-opted.
- NFA should set aside funds for implementation of the CFMs especially livelihood improvement or else they risk defeating the very purpose of CFM of improving livelihoods through forestry.
- Adopt an electronic system for tracking timber from the time of issuance of a license to the point of sale. This improves efficiency and minimises physical contact between traders and Forest Managers hence reducing corruption.
- Private sector engagement should be strengthened and technical support provided to the private and communal natural forests owners who desire to register forests. Private tree planters on NFA CFRs have been supported under SPGS, the same should be done for natural forests.
- Wetland and fragile eco-system management should be components of future programme(s).
- Develop clear strategies for gender equality in the use and control of forest resources.

ANNEX 1: Categories of cases reported under Rwenzori Anti-Corruption Coalition (RAC) for the period 2014 to March 2017

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF CASES	ADRESSED	NOT ADRESSED	COMMENT
Encroachment	182	180	02 in Butiiti and Nyantungo LFR	Encroachment especially in Ibambaro, Kitecura is on a monthly basis.
Charcoal Burning and selling	102	97	05	Licences expire annually. Before renewal there are issues of unlicensed charcoal burning and selling.
Governance and other service delivery challenges	300	150	150 others are related to recruitment of staff at health facilities	These include: corruption at court, police, DFS and NFA staff; Violation of license terms e.g transfer of license, undeclaration of forestry revenue; Low staffing at Local governments due to staff sealing.
Land titles	03	0	03	Land titles still exist in Matiri CFR, Nyantungo LFR and Muhangi CFR.
Boundary opening	07	05	02	Boundary opening was done in Kitecura, Matiri and Ibambara CFR. Butiiti and Nyantungo LFR boundaries have remained un-open because the district claims it has no money.
Transportation of other forestry products e.g Timber, prumus Africana etc.	130	13 According to court cases disposed off or convicted	107	Some timber documents are not authentic. No record particularly for trucks on transit to Kampala especially when the source is not clear. Transportation is done at night and at times in containers it becomes hard to detect and verify.
Illegal Timber Harvesting	170	100 reported to NFA and handed to Police for prosecution 90 convicted by May 2016.	10 No record on responsiveness	There is a situation when NFA fail to establish the source of impounded timbers and they are declared legal.

ANNEX 2: Perceptions of Stakeholders on the effectiveness of tracking illegal activities

STAKEHOLDER	PERCEPTION
CBMs	Forest crimes are done by people who are highly politically connected and they enjoy State protection. A case in point is when some people were arrested for forest crimes, detained at Kagadi Police Station and one of the current ministers went to police and ordered for their release.
DFS staff	I always get phone calls as late as 2:00 am but when we try, we find it is the big shots, MPs, EX-MPs and you find that your hands are tied. You need to understand that we are fighting with giants.
CBMs	Corruption amongst duty bearers where some of the people responsible for administering the law connive with the illegal dealers in committing forest crimes. On some occasions, duty bearers have said that " <i>Nimufaki?</i> " meaning " <i>why are you bothered?</i> " to the CBMs and members of the CFM who report cases.
ACCU ¹⁷	NFA has been accused of connivance with illegal timber dealers by communities.
NFA	CBMS use their positions to connive with the illegal timber cutters on some occasions.
CBMs	The EPP wait for timber or charcoal trucks, arrest the people in the trucks, get only a few pieces of timber as exhibit and sell the rest.
CBMs	In Kangombe CFR (Nyamarunda side), NFA and UPDF officials ask for bribes from the encroachers. Those who are willing to pay are allowed to plant their crops and those who cannot pay are chased or terribly beaten and women raped. The UPDF in the same area also lure young girls and women into sex in exchange for matooke harvested from the part of the forest that had been encroached.
CBMs	Some of the NFA and DSF staff are not bothered at all. In Kabwoya the CBMs have on several occasions reported to the NFA Supervisor that there is an open road in Omukabingo in Bugoma CFR but no action has been taken.
WEMNET ¹⁸	In some instances Community Based Monitors have conducted arrests and impounded trucks loaded with illegal timber. They sometimes hand them over to the staff of NFA but encounter the same trucks on the roads either heading to Fort-portal or Kampala.
NFA	Limited capacity of NFA to make follow-up on all the information provided. Sometimes the staff lack fuel to rush to scenes of crimes and in many instances they use their personal savings to respond to the reports of CBMs.
CBMs	The law is enforced discriminately whereby the rich illegal dealers are left scot free and the poor forest dependent communities are harassed if found accessing resources for their livelihood.
FSSD	What categories of people are arrested? Aren't they the casual labourers hired by businessmen who are never arrested even if they are known?
NFA	Information is sometimes not admissible enough to convict the culprits
RESIDENT STATE ATTORNEY	There are capacity gaps in handling exhibits and recording of statements which makes cases unsustainable. <i>You are serving us with bad food that we cannot digest. I would be losing credibility if I sanctioned files that would be quashed.</i>
EPP	The workload of verification visits and making statements is unmanageable because only a few police personnel are able to write credible statements related to forest crimes.
CBMs	Before the EPP came on board the situation was being managed well but when they came with guns and became very close to the perpetrators of forest crimes, the community members started fearing and most of them have decided to keep quiet about forest crimes.
CBMs	Today we are fed up with the EPP and the UPDF because of the harm they have caused. They are always chatting and drinking alcohol with the illegal timber dealers. How can they fail to protect them when they are good friends? This situation gets worse when these armed forces stay in one place for long.
CBMs	There are some special and hardworking people like Maniraguha who until recently was in Hoima. If we had ten (10) NFA staff as committed as Maniraguha, illegal activities would have been greatly controlled."

¹⁷ ACCU: A study brief on the analysis of Law Enforcement Agencies

¹⁸ WEMNET Publication: Behind the scenes.

ANNEX 3: OUTCOME JOURNALS- These are found in a separate document.

ANNEX 4: Change Stories

STORY 1: FROM A RUTHLESS ILLEGAL TIMBER HARVESTER TO A FOREST ACTIVIST

Mr. Twesigye Denis (a.k.a XYG-KLAN 2007), 27 years old, was born in Hoima District in a family where the father was a timber dealer. They lived a good life deriving the major part of their livelihood from forests. The father had been in timber business for 30 years. All that time, NFA used to give licenses for timber harvesting which made the business legal.

Denis had his post-primary education at Kisubi High School. He had a talent of singing that was quickly identified by the music teacher when he had just joined the school. Denis became a member of the school choir right from S.1. At school, Denis was in the category of students from rich families.

When his father died, his wife (Denis' mother) took over the business. She somehow managed the business unlike most families where everything disintegrates when the owner of the business dies. Denis' mother became a shrewd timber dealer and taught her children both boys and girls how to do timber business. Denis had not worked for long and NFA stopped giving licenses for cutting natural trees.

While Denis could have kept himself busy in formal employment, this was not forthcoming despite being a graduate of Business Science and Information Technology from Victoria University. Denis contemplated the kind of business he could do including song writing and production but thought that it was not as profitable as timber (soft and hard wood) from indigenous trees. Song writing was not new to Denis because he had released his first song during the S.6 long vacation with the support of his mother.

Denis then decided to continue dealing in timber illegally but would only sell to his mother. Denis' mother had a motivation strategy which most parents do not offer to their children when they do business together. The mother would pay for the timber supplied at market prices and would give a bonus on a quarterly basis based on the quantity of timber supplied.

Denis came up with a strategy of making friends with the people living adjacent to the forest reserves, through buying alcohol and giving them money (bribes) in exchange for their protection and ensuring 24-hour surveillance over the NFA field staff and patrol men. This helped Denis to know which part of the forest to be at a particular time, hence evading the NFA staff.

Denis became such a threat to the forests that at one time he had four (4) one-man operated power saws each harvesting about 70 pieces per day. This brought the total to 280 pieces per day. Denis' greed for timber went overboard and he decided to take a Saw-mill with a capacity of converting 800 and 600 pieces of soft and hard wood respectively in one day.

Denis' lucrative business would not last long. When Mr. Stewart Maniraguha was transferred to Hoima as a Sector Manager, he identified secret informers who used to give him information.

One day, Denis was arrested and taken to Hoima Police Station where he spent two days. His machines were all confiscated. The news went all over Hoima. His mother started working around the clock to secure a Police Bond but this was not forthcoming. On the second day, very many youth from Hoima, including Musicians, DJs, Rastas of all sorts gathered at the Police Station and threatened to break into the Police Cell. They mounted such pressure and the Police agreed to give him Bond.

One of the conditions of the Police Bond was to first report to the office of Mr. Maniraguha before reporting to police. Whenever Denis reported to Mr. Maniraguha, he would undergo intensive sensitization about the importance of forests until Denis realized that what he was doing was not of greater public good. He asked for forgiveness which Maniraguha agreed to on condition that he mobilized fellow musicians to be escorting him to Mr. Maniraguha's office. This was done and all those who escorted him would undergo sensitization on the importance of forests. After Mr. Maniraguha realized that the message had sunk in the hearts of the musicians, he asked them to work together and compose a song about forests. This was done with Denis in the lead. Mr. Maniraguha was so committed that he would even attend their rehearsals to ensure that the message comes out clearly. When Mr. Maniraguha was satisfied with the song, he supported Denis to record it and the song became a hit. The song is a 5-minute cyfer (sang by a section of artistes). They have sung it twice on Environmental Day in Kabwoya and it is regularly played on the Radios in Hoima especially Community Green Radio and SPICE F.M. The song is appreciated by the youth and it has made them love forests because they like Denis very much.



Photo of Denis in action.

As a result of what happened to Denis, his mother stopped dealing in timber and is currently in the business of agricultural produce (maize and beans). Since that time, Denis has never thought of going back to the forest. Even when he has no money, the option of timber does not cross his mind. He has instead started a studio for production of songs both for himself and for others. With the help of Mr. Maniraguha, Denis planted $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre of both pine and eucalyptus and he has plans to expand his plantation.

END

CHANGE STORY 2

THE INTER-DISTRICT MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM SAVES KAWEERI CENTRAL FOREST RESERVE FROM ENCHROACHERS

The old adage “cross a river in a group and a crocodile won’t eat you” has held true for NFA in respect of Kaweeri Central Forest Reserve in Mubende District. Before the formation of the Inter-district Multi stakeholder Forum NFA had given up on Kaweeri CFR that had been totally encroached. Unlike in other places, the encroachers in Kaweeri were not bothered about NFA because it had made several attempts to evict them and failed.

“What did I do to deserve such a demotion? How can I be transferred to a place with no forests and I still think I’m working for NFA?” These remained unanswered questions in Mr. Tumwesigye’s mind.

The Inter-district Multi-stakeholder Forum has a General Assembly of 70 members representing a cross section of all stakeholders in forest governance from three districts of Mubende, Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa. It was founded in 2012. The stakeholders include: the District LC 5 Chairpersons, the Resident District Commissioners, Staff of NFA, District Forestry Officers, Natural Resources Officers, Environmental Officers, Uganda Police Force, Private Sector (especially Tea Estate Owners), Civil Society Organisations and representatives of Community Based Monitors and Forest User Groups. Currently, the Forum is chaired by the LC 5 Chairperson of Mubende District. The tenure of office of the Chairperson is one year and it is on rotational basis.

Kaweeri Central Forest Reserve with a surface area of over 1435 Hectares had been totally deforested and turned into a huge maize growing garden by several people who had turned the forest land into personal land. Surprisingly, part of Kaweeri CFR is located 1 km away from the District Offices therefore encroachment was not hidden from the duty bearers.

In 2015, Mr. Tumwesigye Alex was transferred from Bushenyi to Mubende District as the NFA Sector Manager.

After reporting for work, he tried to locate the NFA CFR of Kaweeri but could not differentiate NFA land from maize gardens. Thanks to the GPS that helped him to locate the NFA land. Mr. Tumwesigye would on several occasions look through the window of his office towards Kaweeri CFR and ask himself.



Picture not of the real person. (Source: internet)

However, when Mr. Tumwesigye started attending the Inter-district-multi-stakeholder Forum, the issue of Kaweeri was put high on the agenda, it was discussed at length and a strategy of how to redeem NFA land was hatched. The strategy involved mobilisation of community members through the local leadership to participate in a dialogue meeting.

All the 70 members of the Forum including the three District Chairpersons, three RDCs, three DPCs, staff of the DFS, CSOs, Environmental and Natural Resource Officers from all the three districts of Mubende, Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa were in attendance. With this multitude of duty bearers encroachers realised that Kaweeri CFR had ceased to be an NFA issue but a Sub-regional issue and they knew that their days were numbered. Discussions were held between the duty bearers and the encroachers. The presence of the other actors who are not duty bearers but community members from other areas showed that the duty bearers were not just being unreasonable. The encroachers were given a deadline by which they should have harvested all their maize and never to plant again. It was further agreed that whoever would not have harvested by the agreed time, he/she would have the maize harvested by the inmates for their food. Two days before the deadline all the maize had been harvested. NFA land was free at last! As a strategy to deter encroachers from coming back in future, part of the land was allocated to a private company to plant trees and this has been done. This private company also supported the Local Government with seedlings for the community members.

ANNEX 5: Principles of CARE International in Uganda

CARE espouses four principles of: Good Governance; Gender and Equity; Partnerships and Civil Society Strengthening. FOREST programme was all about good governance, while the three principles were integrated in the programme and have been discussed throughout the report but for emphasis, some will be retaliated.

Gender and equity: This entails empowering women for access and control over productive resources and qualitative participation in formal and informal decision making structures.

Some level of effort was made by Care's Implementing Partners to ensure that women participate and benefit from the various projects. A total of 114545 men against the 48182 women are directly participating and benefitting from programme activities. This accounts for 29.6% percentage. (Source: CARE Database).

In Mubende Environmental Protection Association (MEPA), the position of Advisor is held by a woman while in Mpanga the Treasurer is a woman.

In KIFICA, women were allocated equal proportions of land with men for tree planting under the CFM and 55% of women have planted eucalyptus trees compared to 45% of men.

In MANIRUIA, women were encouraged to become members in their own right and in case of separation with their spouses, they retain their memberships and the benefits that accrue to members as long as they continue meeting their group obligations.

However, there are some gaps that need to be noted:

- Women in the MANIRUIA are less confident than men in expressing themselves. This observation was made during a Focus Group Discussion.
- During the study, all the contact persons within the Sub-counties were men with women being visible only after being mobilised by the men.
- Desegregation of data is not always in terms of women, youth and other marginalised categories. For example it is not possible to know the numbers of different categories of CBMs out of the total 778.

Partnerships

The implementation of FOREST nurtured some partnerships between CARE, IPs and duty bearers. The implementation went beyond the Rights-based approach to supporting the duty bearers to fulfil their mandate. Examples include the support to NFA through ACODE for development of Benefit Sharing Guidelines and the finalisation of the National Forest and Tree planting Regulations 2016. ACODE in partnership with MWE recruited a consultant to develop an operational mechanism for the National Tree Fund.

The CARE team supported partners and the Ministry of Water and Environment in organizing and conducting the National Forest Forum, International Day of Forests, World Water and World Meteorology Day activities.

By nurturing partnerships with the private sector gains were made from Cadwell through the Inter-district forum. Cadwell supports growing of prunus trees at household level has promised to support the forum with 3 million Uganda Shillings and two Laptops and Green Charcoal supported communities through provision of seedlings in Mubende.

Civil society Strengthening

CARE mainly concentrated on strengthening her direct IPs who in turn strengthened the CBOs within their areas of operation. This in turn saw a number of CBOs form and go through the registration processes that enabled them to be recognised as legal entities.

ANNEX 6: List of people interviewed

Name	Designation/ Group	Contacts
Deziderius Irumba	Prog. Quality and Learning Coordinator CARE	0772 / 07554 -418567
Annet Kandole	FOREST Programme Manager	0772490276
Kazungu Bob	FSSD- MWE	0782712196
Buyera Paul	NFA	0772466569
Aharikundira Margret	Sector Manager –Muzizi	0772771445
Kamugisha Hilary	Forest Supervisor –Muzizi	0782606948
Muruli John Bosco	Acting Sector Manager & Supervisor Bujawe	0774801409 / 0753802270
Lotet Ronald	Senior Environmental Officer-Mubende	0782083756 / 0706339691
Byoona Gerald	Environmental Officer – Kagadi	0773531725
Gift Benjamin	Assistant District Forest Officer	0787623040
Onzima Luke Patrick	Dist. Forest Officer –Kyenjojo	0772477620 / 0701038644
Nyakoojo Sam	Secretary to the Forum & JESE	0782121962
Byomuntura Meshack	Gender Social and Accountability Officer – RAC	0788398680/ 0701160006
ASP Baseka Philemon	Uganda Police Force	0784981610
Atuhaire Grace	Former District Chairperson – Kyenjojo	0778326699
Tumwesigye Alex	Sector Manager NFA	0776858392
Nakiyingi Ephrance	ACCU	0782455423
Zaake Hassan	Environmental Alert	0773057488
Mugume Kennedy	MIRAC	0774705282
Bategeka Jolly	MIRAC	0778445166
Tugume John Bosco	Journalists – SPICE F.M	0774903415
Twesigye Denis	Artist/ Musician	0700619902
Naluwairo Ronald	ACODE	0772636345

Amumpire Anne	ACODE	0782527626
Kyomukama Xavier	Mpanga CFM Member	0773458867
Baguma Leonard		0783041299
Muruli Joseph		
Muruli Charles		0782581551
Byakora Onesfora		0774045970
Barongo Lawrence		0788965923
Barongo Lawrence		0782901956
Nsimire Denis		0777103116
Busobozi Julius		0782109928
Byabashaija Patrick		0789248814
Irumba James		0782259401
Kahigwa Peter		0774370283
Mbabazi Jane		0789616005
Nyakoojo Stephen	Chairperson	0774687800
Isingoma Edison		0782021965
Karukohe Grace		0782591964
Karukohe Zozimus		0782588204
Kaahwa Luke		0783796928
Asiimwe Patrick		0777605583
Kyamanywa Stephen		0774045250
Barongo John		0788237131
Kabanaku Scola		
Rutahigwa Yafesi		
Manaku Joseph		
Bitature Deo		
Kasangaki Expeditor		
Irumba Aloyzio		
Mbabazi Mary	Mpanga Treasurer CFM Member	
Hon Mwesigwa Kaleb	Kawaruju – Mahasa Member	0772849894
Muhwezi Deus	Kawaruju – Mahasa Member	0706720092
Isunga Robert Malidadi	Kyarusozi T/C -Binunda	0785041782
Mwampadi Eliahu	EP Hoima	0782996880
Kahwa Yafesi	Kabwoya CBM	0782872107
Kabagambe Julius		0782816024
Ahebwa Karole		0784057862
Abigaba John		0775105826
Njaba Umirambe Fred		0772022800
Mweru Christine	CBM – Kagadi Town Council	
Busobozi Christopher	“	0776940705
Abigaba Sylvia	CBM - Nyamarunda	0786638830
Atugonza Nicholus		0784753076
Sanyu William		0777611700
Hon. Zziwa Birungi Edward	Vice-Chairperson – Mubende District	
Taremwa Chrissy	District Lead Monitor- Mubende	
Turyatunga Edward	CBM Kibalinga	
Bakanturaki Wensilus		
Owoyesiga Pascal		
Kwizera Evalisto	LC1 – Chairperson – Kazo West- Kibalinga	
Misach	RAC	
Amanyia Joseph	LC111 Chairperson Butiiti	0782617974

Akintora Balya Naome	CBM & Member of LC 11 Court Butiiti	
Busulwa Mohamad	MEPA	
Muramuzi Bernard	Mobiliser	0773783385
Kalungi Denis	Secretary	0704700765
Wakulira Deo		0775070147
Namata Sarah		
Ssemuju James		
Kayengo Francis		
Nakagwe Rose		
Nakati Federesi	Advisor MEPA	0773874219
Komujji Goreti	CBM Bageza	0751540870
Andrew Tumwesigye	Bufunjo CBM	0779811616
Masaba Nyamaizi Foska	Bufunjo CBM	0782992818
Kaberinde Joseph	Lead Monitor	0784992792 / 0758294545
Ayebazibwe Godius	Chairperson KIFECA	0775678213
Expedito	KIFECA	0752784049
Mugisha Marisere	LC1 Chairperson	0778429324
Ngabirano Jullu		0776632809
Harirama Damasen		
Rwarahozembe		
Twinobusingye Alinfensi		0789837093
Turyamureeba Ben		
Kato Expedito		
Kajura David		
Baitwababo Silvano		
Kiconco Emily		
Isunga Robert Malidadi	CBM Binunda	0785041782
Agaba Saul	CBM Birunda	0784340837
Kahunde Rose	CBM Binunda	
Bagonza Francis	Lead Monitor- Butunduzi T/C & District Advisor	0781268356
Ruhweza Lawrence	Chair MANRUIA- Kidukuru Sub-group & Monitor	0789926098
Kusemererwa William	Kidukuru Sub-group CFM Sec & Monitor	07514516033
KeijukyeBeatrice Abwoli	Kidukuru Sub-group CFM Vice-chair & Monitor	0771634325
Karugaba Vicent	MANRUIA Secretary General	0752969977
Kiiza Selegio		
Kateba Emmanuel		
Marasira Joan		
Tibagwa Mary		
Kabazora Martha		
Katongole Joash	MANRUIA - Treasurer	
Mwesigye Boniface		
Kabende Joseph	CBM	0784992792
Tumwesigye Andrew	CBM Kanyegaramire	0779811616
Natukunda Vicent	CBM- Kanyegaramire	077645547
Niwamanya David	Kanyegaramire Village	0773833683
Rubalema Elinest		0776240291
Omusiime Deus		0778898869
Tibebuza David		0779814162
Kasigazi Denesi		
Kabuga F		
Tushemererwe R		

Niwamanya Methodius		0772263974
Kamugisha Sylviano		0777732849
Mukiga Dominic		
Arineitwe George		0775850099
Kijuba Domosemi		
Mubangizi	VHT member	0785812553
Kwesiga Jackson	VHT	0788494820
Tumwesigye E		0779141105
Biryomumaisho Dominic		0787654292
Mugisha Pierre		
Tumuranzye R		0773936161
Baburaata B		0784821665
Kababikira Topista		0773650442
Byomuhangi Andrew		0778506865
Habokubohi Bosco		0777811692
Mukasa Joseph Junior		0772961662
Rwamaryo Yakobo	Nyamicu Trading Centre	
Mugarura Rusiomo		
Rwamurinda Benon		
Ambangire Racheal		
Safari Gideon		0775117572
Turyahikayo Lay Josam		0775798797
Muyambi Barnabas		0779429735
Alinaitwe Emmanuel		0780945796
Twinomujuni Francis		
Habarulema Ezra	CBM	0778697351

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