

# Social justice in forestry: gains made and tactics that work

James Mayers



## **Acknowledgements**

Since 2003, the Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) has been facilitated by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), with teams active in 10 countries in Africa and Asia (Cameroon, Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam). Over more than a decade, FGLG has built its capability to influence policy and improve decision making about forests – researching issues with marginalised communities, connecting diverse groups of opinion formers, and applying practical tools.

The content of this report is focused on the period 2010 to 2013 and is drawn from the knowledge and reporting of the FGLG country teams and their colleagues at IIED, and of key collaborators in our Asian partner RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests. The author would like to thank all the people in these extraordinary teams for their excellent work, and to the following in particular for their direct contributions to this report (listed alphabetically): Anna Amumpire, Kingsley Bekoe Ansa, Chimère Diaw, Norman Dlamini, David Gritten, Agus Justianto, Budhita Kismadi, Samuel M. Mawutor, Duncan Macqueen, Simon Milledge, Elaine Morrison, Onesmus Mugenyi, Angeline Ndo, Steven Ngubane, Kyeretwie Opoku, Sanjoy Patnaik, Berta Rafael, Leianne Rolington, Nguyen Quang Tan, Alda Salomao, Yani Septiani, Carlos Serra, Cassian Sianga, Bright Sibale, Godber Tumushabe, Sanjay Upadhyay and Yurdi Yasmi.

The author also thanks Peter Branney for independently evaluating FGLG in 2013, Jon Barnes for his synthesising work on the text, Duncan Macqueen and Elaine Morrison for reviewing the text, Leianne Rolington for overseeing the whole production process for this book and Mark Teagles for his layout and design work.

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Commission and UK aid from the UK Government. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission, the UK Government or the institutions involved in this initiative.

## **Produced by IIED's Natural Resources Group**

The aim of the Natural Resources Group is to build partnerships, capacity and wise decision-making for fair and sustainable use of natural resources. Our priority in pursuing this purpose is on local control and management of natural resources and other ecosystems.

Published by IIED, September 2014

Mayers, J., 2014. Social justice in forests: gains made and tactics that work.

A report from the Forest Governance Learning Group. IIED Research Report. IIED, London.

<http://pubs.iied.org/13574IIED>

ISBN: 978-1-78431-079-0

Printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based inks.

International Institute for Environment and Development

80-86 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8NH, UK

Tel: +44 (0)20 3463 7399

Fax: +44 (0)20 3514 9055

email: [info@iied.org](mailto:info@iied.org)

[www.iied.org](http://www.iied.org)

@iied

[www.facebook.com/theIIED](http://www.facebook.com/theIIED)

Download more publications at [www.iied.org/pubs](http://www.iied.org/pubs)

Cover photo: Meceburu Forest Reserve, near Nampula, Mozambique, May 2010. © Mike Goldwater

# Social justice in forestry: gains made and tactics that work

---

James Mayers

# Contents

<b>Acronyms</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Executive summary</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Cameroon</b>	<b>24</b>
Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans	24
Progress – creating a hub on forest governance and the green economy	24
Impact – stronger structures, positive changes?	27
Future plans – turning agreements into committed action	28
<b>Ghana</b>	<b>29</b>
Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans	29
Progress – rekindling FLEGT and sparking bottom-up pressure for change	29
Impact – giving way to a more collaborative approach	32
Future plans – achieving reforms, nurturing a new generation of leaders	33
<b>India</b>	<b>34</b>
Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans	34
Progress – from law to livelihoods: making forest rights a reality for people	34
Impact – empowering people, becoming a source of advice for the state	38
Future plans – replicating achievements and maximising synergies	39
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>40</b>
Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans	40
Progress – championing ‘change from within’	40
Impact – from breaking ice to changing minds and lives	44
Future plans – mainstreaming achievements and deepening engagement	45
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>47</b>
Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans	47
Progress – from charcoal to cooperatives: how community forestry works	47
Impact – providing a reference point for advice, support, ideas and change	50
Future plans – helping others to help themselves	51
<b>Mozambique</b>	<b>53</b>
Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans	53
Progress – media mobilisation, public pressure, community control?	53

Impact – from campaigning clout to cohesive pursuit of change?	57
Future plans – a community agenda on green growth and trade with China	58
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>59</b>
Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans	59
Progress – an enterprising approach	59
Impact – practical organisation, policy influence and strategic support	62
Future plans – small forest enterprise in a wider strategy for rural justice	63
<b>Tanzania</b>	<b>64</b>
Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans	64
Progress – media campaigning and constructive government engagement	64
Impact – a platform for community participation and official action	67
Future plans – involving the private sector in changing forest governance	67
<b>Uganda</b>	<b>69</b>
Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans	69
Progress – proposing alternatives for government action	69
Impact – helping to hold government to account	72
Future plans – creating the basis for a citizen agenda on forest governance	73
<b>Vietnam</b>	<b>74</b>
Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans	74
Progress – piloting change with communities in a different policy climate	74
Impact – strong foundations for bridging the community-government gap	77
Future plans – civil society links and shaping the national agenda on CFM	78
<b>International FGLG work in <i>Social Justice in Forestry</i></b>	<b>80</b>
Key features of progress, impact and future plans	80
Progress – learning, promotion and launch of a China-Africa platform	81
Impact – adding value and achieving recognition	84
Future plans – embedding lessons and sustaining China-Africa momentum	85
Evaluating ' <i>Social Justice in Forestry</i> ': achievements, impact and lessons	86
<b>Annex: films, media and publications</b>	<b>93</b>
Films	93
Press and web articles	94
Publications	98

# Acronyms

<b>CFM</b>	Community forest management	<b>RECOFTC</b>	Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific – The Center for People and Forests
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the parties	<b>REDD</b>	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
<b>CSO</b>	Civil society organisation	<b>SFM</b>	Sustainable forest management
<b>EC</b>	European Commission	<b>SMFE</b>	Small and medium forest enterprise
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>FGLG</b>	Forest Governance Learning Group	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>FLEGT</b>	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>FOCAC</b>	Forum for China-Africa Cooperation	<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>GNP</b>	Gross National Product	<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>IIED</b>	International Institute for Environment and Development	<b>VPA</b>	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature	<b>VSFE</b>	Very small forestry enterprise
<b>LAS</b>	Legality Assurance System	<b>WWF</b>	World Wide Fund for Nature
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of understanding		
<b>MP</b>	Member of parliament		
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organisation		
<b>NTFPs</b>	Non-timber forest products		

Country-specific acronyms are explained in the country sections of the report.

# Executive summary

## Governing forests – a tough business

Governing forests and forestry well demands good, interconnected decisions to be made by many people. Forestry can strengthen communities' livelihoods, contribute to poverty reduction and be environmentally sustainable when it is based on the local control and capacity to make productive use of forest resources, guided by fair and effective policies and supported by increased levels of investment aimed at developing people, not just profit.

But many people are often denied access to key decisions about forests, while others who have the access do not have the ideas or incentive to change things, or are actively preventing change. To connect those marginalised from forest governance to those controlling it, and to help both strengthen their practice to improve governance, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) has facilitated the international Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) initiative since 2002. This has involved an informal alliance of country-based FGLG teams – in Cameroon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Vietnam – and international partners working to facilitate and promote stakeholder learning in order to influence policy.

## What does the Forest Governance Learning Group do?

FGLG is organised around two ideas: that good decisions can only be made when they are based on engagement, learning and pragmatic choices; and that understanding about good decisions can be spread by involving practitioners. It provides teams of selected individuals, in the key local and national governance contexts noted above, an informal and moderated space within which dialogue, learning and decisions can take place. These individuals are typically 'governance-connected', drawn from divergent interests, institutions and sectors.

There is a deliberate attempt to create teams for, or links to the issues of, those marginalised and affected by policy decisions, and to take action to influence policy formulation and implementation. The teams carry out targeted research, hold learning and training events, build networks, support the uptake of governance tools, and develop and exploit opportunities for governance reform. The teams' connections with each other through the group as a whole enables effective peer review of progress, transfer of inspiration, innovation and learning from one location to another and installation of insights in international policy.

It is not often that a single project at IIED lives to see its 12th birthday. Programmes of work endure over decades but individual projects tend to come and go, constrained by donors' limited ability to commit funding over the long term. FGLG's longevity has allowed us time to identify

**five effective tactics** and to integrate them in all our forest governance work:

- **Securing safe space** — ensure independence and build mutual trust.
- **Provoking dialogue** — connect and explore stakeholder positions.
- **Building constituencies and networking** — strengthen understanding and collective muscle.
- **Wielding evidence** — effectively generate, capture and present accurate information.
- **Interacting politically** — engage strategically with political players and track the effects.

Through experience, FGLG has also been able to focus on making **six types of impact**. We have seen improvements in:

- **Knowledge** of on-the-ground realities and key governance barriers and opportunities.
- **Tactical acuity** about practical ways to change governance in different contexts.
- **Capabilities** to influence or change governance.
- **Engagement** mechanisms and processes.
- **Discourses** in decision-making arenas and processes.
- **Decisions** on policies and key practices.

Effective sequencing and combination of the above tactics, in ways appropriate to context, has in turn allowed the teams to build momentum through these types of impact in different ways – as described below.

## Social justice in forestry – a demand beginning to be heard

Since 2009, the second phase of the FGLG initiative has emphasised promoting social justice in forestry, with 2014 seeing completion of a five-year project funded by the European Commission (EC) focused on arguably, the four most central and interconnected forestry issues internationally:

- **Forest rights and forest small enterprise.**
- **Legitimate forest products.**
- **Pro-poor climate change mitigation and adaptation through forestry.**
- **Transnational learning and preparedness** on governance approaches achieving social justice in forestry.

This report covers the progress and impacts of the *Social Justice in Forestry* project of FGLG. It examines the achievements and future plans of individual country-based FGLG teams, as well as of international FGLG work, including a new initiative aimed at addressing forest governance challenges raised by the growing China-Africa trade and investment relationship.

It also synthesises the main findings of an independent evaluation of the project. Sketched below are some of the project's most significant highlights and outcomes, drawing from specific

reports on country-based and international FGLG work as well the report of the *Social Justice in Forestry* project evaluation. All of these reports are available online at: <http://pubs.iied.org>

## Cameroon – creating a hub on forest governance and the green economy

In Cameroon, work over 2009-13 led to the establishment of formal collaboration and support mechanisms on forest governance, through memorandums of agreement between the FGLG, known in the country as GREG-Forêts, and two ministries (the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development). Such progress followed productive engagement of the Prime Minister's office. A further agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture is likely to be struck in the near future.

This means that formal structures are now in place for key experts from civil society to help enhance the quality and consistency of forest governance across government in relation to a wide range of programmes and themes. The FGLG has laid a foundation for continued stakeholder engagement aimed at ensuring more effective participation, transparency and accountability in national processes such as FLEGT, REDD+ and development of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

In continuing its good relationship with the government, GREG-Forêts, hosted by the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Africa, is sharing reports at ministerial level on the potential future green economy of Cameroon – an economy requiring clearer rights for local enterprise, more strongly defined legality, and better incentives, for example, from climate change finance. Previously, proposals from the group influenced revision of the Forestry Law to strengthen the rights of communities to non-timber forest products (in turn affecting concession management where these rights are present) as well as a 2010 joint ministerial decree that finally included more equitable benefit-sharing arrangements on forest revenues.

## Ghana – rekindling FLEGT and sparking bottom-up pressure for change

In Ghana, the FGLG, convened by the NGO, Civic Response, strengthened the level and quality of engagement between various civil society forums and the Forestry Commission as well as the private sector, and catalysed a range of complementary initiatives – though more remains to be done to sustain the commitment of government and business players. Progress in policy engagement has enabled civil society to be better involved in strategic decision-making in the forest sector and has stimulated better government accountability to the wider public. This includes a strengthened role for civil society in sectoral decision-making and recent rekindling of engagement with Voluntary Partnership Agreement negotiations with the EU under FLEGT to curb the trade in illegal timber, including discussions on the introduction and terms of a legality assurance system.

The group made influential contributions to the legal and policy review of the forest sector, including revision of the 1994 Forest and Wildlife Policy, which concluded in October 2012 with

unprecedented opportunities for strengthening community participation in the governance and management of forests. Meanwhile, following Forest Watch Ghana advocacy stemming from identification of illegal rosewood harvesting as a key issue in forest forums stimulated by FGLG, a ban on Ghanaian rosewood exports to Southeast Asia was introduced from the end of 2013. In collaboration with Forest Watch Ghana, the FGLG has also been examining the scale of revenue loss to various parties, including the government, as part of a stumpage review, with a view to laying the basis for proposals advocating forest revenue reforms which will bring greater benefits to communities.

## India – making rights a reality for people

In India, the FGLG, convened latterly by LANDESA-Rural Development Institute and by the Enviro-Legal Defence Firm in 2009-11, has contributed to the democratisation of forest governance through the effective engagement of key officials and institutions, helping to create specific centres of excellence that wider government and state structures can refer to. This has led, for example, to a more flexible and less monolithic approach by the Forest Department.

The group played a major role in influencing the 2012 revision of rules used to operationalise the 2006 Forest Rights Act, following comparative analysis and stakeholder debate of FRA implementation in different states. This has established the legal rights for forest-dependent and tribal people to utilise local forest resources and will increasingly have an important impact on social justice.

FGLG capacity building support has led to successful cases of forest rights and resource titles being conferred on communities and to post-claim support for communities securing forest rights becoming mandatory under the amended FRA. This has created the potential for legal settlements to be increasingly harnessed to improvements in communities' livelihoods. Earlier FGLG work influenced the national Planning Commission to recognise the importance of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) for national planning and development.

The FGLG has also enabled the perspectives of community forestry stakeholders to be brought into consultations on REDD+ at state and national levels, and the presence and influence of FGLG members in the Ministry of Environment and Forests and other key government agencies has helped see the emergence of the Green India Mission aiming to increase afforestation and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – with considerable potential for community forestry.

## Indonesia – championing change from within

In Indonesia, the strong presence of progressive government and state officials in the group has enabled the FGLG to promote change 'from within', while steadily nurturing growing trust and interaction with civil society on forest governance and climate change. Since 2012, the group has been convened by the non-governmental Natural Resource Development Centre. Another distinctive feature is that the FGLG has operated an 'alumni' system. This has enabled the group to sustain and renew the impact of its membership as senior members rise to influential positions in government and NGOs and give way to the introduction of other forest governance specialists.

FGLG engagement across multiple ministries and institutions has created the potential for better coordination and harmonisation of policy and won stronger recognition of sustainable forest management as essential for successful REDD+ implementation. The group has worked to link the national programme with the sub-national (actual implementation) level and to promote greater transparency and stakeholder participation in the REDD+ process.

Meanwhile, FGLG support has achieved tangible benefits for specific communities, such as the opening of opportunities for accessing credit in Java and new sandalwood regulations in East Nusa Tenggara, the poorest province in Indonesia. Such progress has boosted the potential for income generation, more secure land tenure and better forest maintenance in the short and long term. If built on and replicated elsewhere, it could help drive further development of district and provincial economies.

## Malawi – from charcoal to cooperatives: how community forestry works

In Malawi, the FGLG, convened by the Centre for Development Management, is increasingly recognised in the country as the reference point on forest governance issues, by the Department of Forestry, donors and NGOs, all of which are taking up FGLG approaches and recommendations in their own work. The group has promoted growing recognition of proposals for the sustainable production and trade of charcoal as a key forest governance and livelihoods issue. This work has involved collaboration on charcoal with FGLG teams in Tanzania and Mozambique and progress has been achieved in the face of a challenging political environment. Several donor programmes such as the World Bank's Shire River basin programme and the UNDP's sustainable land management project, as well as NGOs involved in livelihoods and environmental programmes, are now considering sustainable charcoal options in their projects, and the Department of Forestry is more open to sustainable charcoal management in issuing forestry licences.

A specialisation of the group has been to explore and promote better ways of handling forest rights – both in state plantations (where public scrutiny of the timber trade led to an overhaul of the licensing system) in State Forest Reserves, (where FGLG has pushed for faster roll-out of new co-management agreements) – and in customary lands, where clan-based forest management systems were promoted as vital to the security of land and tree tenure needed to make community forestry work. A successful pilot experience in customary lands in Ntcheu district created potential for replication and scaling up. Indeed, support for community-based forest management in the Ntanda forest area has led to significant progress in reforestation and boosted families' income generation through the sale of surplus firewood, the production of poles for building, and investment in beekeeping.

Thanks to the catalytic role of the FGLG, a process for national REDD+ strategy development is also underway in Malawi. An FGLG adviser has been formally invited to support the Forestry Department in charge of managing the process, so the group is in a strong position to influence its future course.

## Mozambique – media mobilisation, public pressure, community control?

In Mozambique, a major strength of the FGLG, convened during the *Social Justice in Forestry* project by various members of the Amigos da Floresta (Friends of the Forest) alliance of NGOs and research organisations, has been its media-based public campaigning. Raised civil society and media awareness on the illegal timber trade causing over-exploitation of forests has led to action by the government to combat corruption and engage in discussions with Chinese logging companies and timber traders for the first time. Specialising in communication and learning, the group has organised and revived national forest dialogues, helped to produce a documentary on gaps in land law, run training sessions on environmental education, and even produced a children's book.

The FGLG team has also supported the creation of a National Paralegal Network to empower communities on natural resource rights and promoted synergies between forest and land security, livelihoods, rural development and climate change in public policy discourse. Such thematic and sectoral linking has been seen, for example, in the group's work to promote sustainable charcoal production and trade. The group has also made an important contribution to the national REDD+ strategy planning process and publication of the first ever national report on monitoring of good environmental governance. Despite notable achievements, however, a key lesson learned is the difficulty of sustaining impact when key people frequently change institutions or roles – the FGLG team in Mozambique has had frequent changes in the institutional hosting of its leadership since the global FGLG initiative began.

## South Africa – small forest enterprise in a wider strategy for rural justice

In South Africa, the FGLG, convened by Forestry South Africa, a leading association of the large and smaller-scale private sector in forestry, has combined strategic focus with flexible and agile operation through a system of core and call-in members drawn from government, civil society and the large and smaller-scale forestry sector. Since 2009, the group has engineered a shift, whereby the government is now much more open both to working with non-state stakeholders and to supporting small and medium forest enterprises (SMFEs), in the case of the latter through a more favourable institutional and regulatory environment. Following several approvals of capital funding for SMFE initiatives, the government is considering a longer-term strategic support programme.

FGLG efforts to boost the organisation, voice and influence of small growers has been particularly successful in KwaZulu Natal and Limpopo provinces where SMFEs have been recognised in development plans and are now attracting training support and capital funding. The group also played an important role in seeking to ensure that a review of land reform policy is integrally linked with stronger small enterprise support and community empowerment. In turn, it facilitated successful SMFE influence over the introduction of timber codes of practice on contracts between smaller producers and large company schemes.

## Tanzania – media campaigning and constructive government engagement

In Tanzania, the work of the FGLG, convened by the Tanzania Forest Working Group of the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum, has increased government trust in working with non-official stakeholders, as shown by invitations for FGLG members to contribute to government meetings, easier access to official information on budgets and forestry, NGO membership of REDD+ technical working groups and joint meetings with government to prepare for international climate change talks.

Positive engagement with government has been seen during the *Mama Misitu* Campaign to curb illegal logging, in which the FGLG drew creatively on the findings of influential research to raise public awareness and boost pressure for change through strong media work, including the broadcasting of documentaries. In 2013, an FGLG-organised public hearing on forest governance based on debate of community testimonies with officials from Kisarawi and Kibaha in Pwani region strengthened local demand for change and led emerging plans to strengthen engagement of the private sector as a strategic actor. The group also made progress in helping facilitate government bilateral agreements with neighbouring Mozambique and Kenya to tackle the role of the cross-border timber trade in deforestation, following debate of studies on the issues at inter-governmental workshops and the broadcasting of a documentary involving collaboration with Mozambique's FGLG. In addition, the group stressed the crucial importance of participatory forest management for tackling deforestation under REDD+, making this a central feature of its efforts to increase the awareness of communities and partners involved in REDD+ pilot projects.

## Uganda – citizens holding government to account

In Uganda, evidence-based advocacy by the FGLG team made a significant contribution to a successful campaign to halt the allocation of major tracts of the Mabira Central Forest Reserve to sugar production, with the country's president agreeing in a meeting with the team to study policy alternatives. The FGLG, convened by Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment, has since seen better government legal compliance and compensation arrangements in forest land allocation cases.

Moreover, a national symposium organised with the FGLG's growing range of partners resuscitated official discussions on forest regulations, which have taken on board proposals from the group. Following the symposium, the government announced a ban on timber harvesting and launched a review of timber concessions and the timber concession process. The results of public dialogues and stakeholder consultations organised by the FGLG have created the basis for the first citizens' state-of-forest-governance report for Uganda, which stimulated much press attention in early 2014 and will be published later in the year. It is hoped that this report will provide a benchmark for sustained pressure and impact and its indicators will be revisited on a periodic basis in future years. The group's proposals on grievance mechanisms and stakeholder participation were also taken on board in Uganda's REDD+ strategy and proposals for multilateral financing.

## Vietnam – bridging the community-government gap

In Vietnam, the group is convened by the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for the Asia and Pacific (RECOFTC) and brings together forestry experts and agricultural economists from government departments and agencies and academic institutions, as well as forestry practitioners. There is increasing momentum for locally controlled forestry in the country following moves away from state domination, but it has faced bureaucratic hurdles, despite formal legal recognition of community land and forest tenure. In response, the FGLG has raised government awareness of forest governance and community forest management (CFM) and the urgent need to improve the forest land allocation (FLA) process based on pilot experiences. The FLA plan in Dak Lak province, for example, now includes FGLG recommendations to strengthen support for CFM.

More productive engagement between communities involved in forestry and government officials has been achieved, with FGLG members themselves now better able to facilitate such a shift as a result of their own stronger adoption and promotion of participatory approaches. The very concept of forest governance involving community participation in forest management is still relatively novel in Vietnam, yet the FGLG has successfully promoted its inclusion in the training curriculum of Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry. The group has also been heavily involved in the national REDD+ process, running a training of trainers initiative to boost grassroots understanding and formulation of proposals on social safeguards. It has also explored smallholder timber legality issues in work on Vietnam's Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the EU under FLEGT.

## International gains for forest rights and enterprise, legitimate products and climate change

Cross-cutting impacts on the four interconnected key themes of the initiative can clearly be traced through the ten countries involved. Increased security of forest rights and more vibrant small forest enterprise requires work to legally recognise and socially legitimise those rights, not just focus, for example, on the legality of big timber exporters to Europe. Strong contributions to this are evident in: effective mobilisation around rights, legality and legitimacy (in Ghana and Cameroon); protection of local rights in the face of outsider resource grabs and illegal timber trade (in Mozambique, Uganda and Tanzania); recognition of customary systems of control over resources (in India and Malawi); smallholder timber legality in VPAs (Vietnam and Ghana); technical and business capacity development through training, exchanges and product specific briefings (Vietnam, Cameroon and South Africa); feeding tax revenues back into the enterprise development cycle (Mozambique and India); and work on finance and investment in small and community enterprises (South Africa, Indonesia and India).

These foundations of forest rights and legitimate enterprise need to be built on through responses to climate change, and notably could be incentivised by REDD+ finance such that economies become more aligned with environmental sustainability. Key progress on this is shown by: improving deforestation assessment data transparency and community REDD+ frameworks (Indonesia); connecting REDD+ pilot projects to governance developments

(Tanzania and Mozambique); and installing local forest rights and enterprise actions, risk and finance management in national strategies on climate change and REDD+ (Vietnam, Tanzania, Malawi, India and Uganda).

## Cross-team learning, productivity and action on forest governance

International FGLG work in the *Social Justice in Forestry* project has involved strong support for bilateral collaboration between country-based FGLGs, both in terms of knowledge-sharing and in looking at cross-border issues. Examples include support for productive cross-team work between the Malawi and Mozambique FGLGs on the charcoal trade, and between the Mozambique and Tanzania groups on the cross-border timber trade and REDD+ strategy, as well as a pan-Asian initiative supported by RECOFTC which developed and strategically promoted recommendations on REDD+, governance and community forestry. International FGLG learning events have provided an important opportunity for facilitating the exchange, peer review and planning involved in such initiatives.

FGLG is a prolific group, producing more than 100 policy research outputs and tools to date, along with 150-plus press articles, radio pieces and blogs. In 2012, we launched *Justice in the Forests*, a series of six widely broadcast short films showing how small teams can have a big impact on forest governance. Other key products include *Stories of Change* which, through different media, describe the effects of FGLG work in Southeast Asia, and a major international guide and toolkit to support implementation of the Food and Agriculture Organization's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests: *Improving Governance of Forest Tenure: a Practical Guide*. All of these are available on the FGLG website mentioned above.

## An independent view of progress and impact

An independent evaluation report concluded that the overall performance of the *Social Justice in Forestry* project had been moderate to high when assessed against evaluation criteria such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability and innovation. Internationally, it found that the promotion of findings and lessons from national and international partners has helped to put governance and social justice at the forefront of international discourse and thinking on forest conservation and management. This has subsequently spawned numerous initiatives on forest governance issues and led to the emergence of a broader international community of practice on forest governance.

Considering the project's significant achievements against relatively modest levels of investment – about US\$34,000 per team per year – the evaluation judged the project to represent good value for money. At the same time, the report found that the project, despite achievements, had not fully realised the potential of its impact on country-level forest governance and international processes. In particular, the project could perhaps have gone further in translating the positive policy shifts frequently generated by the FGLG teams into practical implementation and enforcement eventually benefiting forest-reliant communities. However, the evaluation also recognised the huge scale of the challenges in doing this.

The report's overall verdict, however, was that the 'direction of change is mostly positive' and that the project had laid an important foundation – in a network of practitioner teams, a published body of evidence, effective dialogue mechanisms and a track record of impact on decision-making – for future progress towards better forest governance. It noted that of the project's four intended outputs, three had been largely met (on reforms and decisions in favour of forest rights and small enterprise; on pro-poor climate change mitigation and adaptation through forestry; and on transnational learning on effective action for improved social justice in forestry), while one (on improving the legality of forest products and institutionalising citizen engagement to strengthen broader forest governance) had been partly met.

In assessing impact, the evaluation report was critical of the lack of specific outcome indicators for each country, while acknowledging the difficulty of marshalling such a high level of detail in a complex ten-country international initiative. It also lamented the absence of systematic assessments of forest governance prior to the start of the project to pinpoint its weaknesses and opportunities. Such specific analysis of the existing governance situation, would have led the FGLG teams' subsequent detailed strategies, tactics and targeting of actions more clearly towards maximised impact.

### Adding significant international value – but could do better

On international FGLG work, the evaluation found that international learning events, the facilitation of country and regional exchanges, the creation of specific learning platforms, as well as the production of tools and materials, had often enabled effective engagement with international networks and policy learning and influencing processes on forest governance, such as REDD+ and FLEGT. Such initiatives and benefits would not have existed without the FGLG project.

While praising the value of such a collaborative approach for FGLG capacity-building and the overall FGLG initiative's profile and outreach, however the report judged that impact at the international level – promoting findings and learning to embed recognition and integration of a social justice focus in forest governance – had been less clear than that achieved by FGLG teams in the ten focus countries. This was partly because of the diversity of processes potentially to be targeted, requiring more extensive engagement than the FGLG initiative globally could have feasibly undertaken.

### Effectively innovative – but limited by time, funds and capacity

In judging project effectiveness, the evaluation concluded that the learning group approach was both valid and innovative, with a proven record of achievement. It found that the informality and autonomy of the FGLG teams' operations, with teamwork based on individual rather than institutional membership, had been effective. At the same time, the report noted that high external demand for FGLG members' engagement outside the group, along with their inevitable professional mobility because of their considerable expertise, had often imposed limits on the immediate time they could devote to the group and on their sustained participation. Moreover, in terms of FGLG recognition, the fact that FGLG teams operated as loose networks of collaborators rather than as institutions frequently meant that their work tended to be associated

with particular individuals and organisations rather than the teams themselves.

Effective work needs to be sustained and built-on, and the evaluation concluded that more effort needs to be invested to institutionalise experiences, lessons and good practices. Among the tools suggested were specific types of documentation and use of websites, and the strategic exploitation of initiatives such as Indonesia's FGLG 'alumni' system, with its great social networking potential. Better use of information, communication technologies and social media was also identified as a way to complement, and in some cases replace, time and resource-intensive country workshops and international learning events.

## Sustaining the gains

In assessing the overall sustainability of *Social Justice in Forestry*, the evaluation concluded that most of the country FGLG teams established would persist in one form or another after the end of the project and that the FGLG approach would continue to operate. At the same time, how structured the teams' operation and teamwork would prove to be in the future remained to be seen, with the evaluation scoring sustainability as moderate. While identifying the social capital accumulated during the project as a strength, it noted that sustainability was intrinsically linked with the availability of funding.

In terms of sustaining the learning, impact, funding and other external support of future FGLG initiatives, the evaluation recommended that the project should immediately establish a central archive and online repository providing easy access to all materials generated during the project. With documentation of lessons of the FGLG methodology likely to be in demand, it recommended in turn a concerted effort to capture and consolidate evidence of what FGLG approaches work, and of why and how they work, under different forest governance settings.

## A new initiative is spawned – on China-Africa forest governance

Following much preparation by FGLG, the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform was launched in 2013 in Beijing. This was in response to surging African timber exports to China and a shared perception, within FGLG teams and amongst initial collaborators in Chinese institutions, that better understanding and partnership is urgently needed on China-Africa forest governance issues. The platform will link FGLG teams in focal African countries, where Chinese investment in the forest sector is of increasing importance, with a team of China policy researchers and opinion formers. Its aim is to facilitate exchange and learning about the key links in supply chains where stakeholder action is needed to improve the prospects for sustainability and local livelihoods, building on evidence of lessons and progress in applying recently developed corporate responsibility guidelines for Chinese investors in other countries.

IIED has secured support for a project with organisations in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Uganda, as well as Chinese and international partners, to sustain the platform's momentum, learn the lessons of FGLG, and give forest governance new strategic impetus over the coming years.



Mecati Forest, Mozambique, May 2010. Charcoal producers cut trees and prepare to make charcoal. © Mike Goldwater



# Introduction

**Forestry can strengthen communities' livelihoods, contribute to poverty reduction and be environmentally sustainable when it is based on the local control and capacity to make productive use of forest resources, guided by fair and effective policies and supported by increased levels of investment aimed at developing people, not just profit. To bring such conditions about, forest governance needs to be improved nationally and internationally. This involves policy stakeholders strengthening their organisational capacity, interaction and influence to secure the forest and forest land rights of communities and enable them to benefit from their resources.**

To connect those marginalised from forest governance to those controlling it, and to help both strengthen their practice in order to improve governance, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) has facilitated an international Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) initiative since 2003. FGLG teams – typically made up of well-respected forest governance experts

drawn from state and non-state bodies and diverse stakeholder groups – have operated in ten countries: Cameroon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Vietnam.

FGLG is organised around two ideas: that good decisions can only be made when they are based on engagement, learning and pragmatic choices; and that understanding about good decisions can be spread by involving practitioners. It provides teams of selected individuals, in the key local and national governance contexts noted above, an informal and moderated space within which dialogue, learning and decisions can take place. These individuals are typically 'governance-connected', drawn from divergent interests, institutions and sectors. There is a deliberate attempt to create teams for, or links to the issues of, those marginalised and affected by policy decisions, and to take action to influence policy formulation and implementation.

The teams carry out targeted research, hold learning and training events, build networks, support the uptake of governance tools, and develop and exploit opportunities for governance reform. The teams' connections with each other through the group as a whole enables effective peer review of progress, transfer of inspiration, innovation and learning from one location to another and installation of insights in international policy.

FGLG's longevity has allowed us time to identify **five effective tactics** and to integrate them in all our forest governance work:

- **Securing safe space** — ensure independence and build mutual trust.
- **Provoking dialogue** — connect and explore stakeholder positions.
- **Building constituencies and networking** — strengthen understanding and collective muscle.
- **Wielding evidence** — effectively generate, capture and present accurate information.
- **Interacting politically** — engage strategically with political players and track the effects.

Through experience, FGLG has also been able to focus on making **six types of impact**. We have seen improvements in:

- **Knowledge** of on-the-ground realities and key governance barriers and opportunities.
- **Tactical acuity** about practical ways to change governance in different contexts.
- **Capabilities** to influence or change governance.
- **Engagement** mechanisms and processes.
- **Discourses** in decision-making arenas and processes.
- **Decisions** on policies and key practices.

Effective sequencing and combination of the above tactics, in ways appropriate to context, has in turn allowed the teams to build momentum through these types of impact in different ways.

## Promoting social justice in forestry

Since 2009, the second phase of the FGLG initiative has emphasised promoting social justice in forestry, with 2013 seeing completion of a five-year project funded by the European Commission (under contract number EuropeAid/ENV/2008/151966/TPS ) with some additional financial support from the UK government's UK aid. EC funding originated from the Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, including Energy, part of the EU's efforts to help countries tackle increasing global environmental challenges and to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal on environment. Donors' €2.5 million investment in the 2009-13 *Social Justice in Forestry* phase took total funding for the overall FGLG initiative implemented in 2005-2013 to approximately €5 million.

This report covers the progress and impacts of the 2009-13 EC-backed *Social Justice in Forestry* project, examining in alphabetical order the achievements of the country-based FGLGs and their plans to follow them up. It then reports on the results and future of international FGLG work, focusing in particular on the emergence of a China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform. It concludes by synthesising the main findings of an independent evaluation report assessing the performance and impact of the *Social Justice in Forestry* project, published in early 2014 in the wake of the consultant's country visits and other evaluation research.

## Project objectives and its four outputs

The overall objective of the *Social Justice in Forestry* phase was 'socially just and sustainable management of forests in developing countries' with a specific objective of 'improved forest governance in ten countries in Africa and Asia, securing local rights, developing forest product legitimacy and combating climate change'. In support of the objectives, the initiative was aimed at achieving four outputs which are, arguably, the four most central and interconnected forestry issues internationally:

1. *Forest rights and small forest enterprise.* Policy reforms, investment decisions and institutional arrangements in favour of secure forest rights and small forest enterprise.
2. *Legitimate forest products.* Strategies to improve legality of forest products, institutionalise citizen engagement and contribute to broader forest governance improvement.
3. *Pro-poor climate change mitigation and adaptation through forestry.* Initiatives to combat climate change through action in the forest sector contribute to pro-poor forest governance and sustainability.
4. *Transnational learning and preparedness.* Understanding improved in international networks and processes about effective action for improved social justice in forestry.

The interconnections between these four outputs are an important focus for the initiative. Increased security of forest rights and more vibrant small forest enterprise requires work to legally recognise and socially legitimise those rights, not just focus, for example, on the legality of big timber exporters to Europe. These foundations of forest rights and legitimate enterprise

need to be built on through responses to climate change, and notably could be incentivised by REDD+ finance such that economies become more aligned with environmental sustainability. And because gains in these areas are largely made through well-targeted and tactical action, cross-country learning and capacity development is crucial.

## Project vision and theory of change

As in the earlier phase of the FGLG initiative, pursuit of impact in the *Social Justice in Forestry* project was based on a theory of change in which teams or groups constituted of individuals from both civil society and government would be established in each participating country; these individuals would have specific capacities, experiences, knowledge and networks relevant to the forest governance issues of the country (but not necessarily be working in the forest sector); and they would be supported by the project to build their capacities to utilise a range of different methods (sometimes called tactics) to influence forest governance in the country.

It was envisaged that such a process of FGLG development and external engagement would lead to positive shifts in policies, laws, rights, regulatory frameworks, institutional arrangements and citizen participation that would eventually yield benefits for forest-dependent people hitherto marginalised and without a direct voice in forest governance discourse.

The premise for the informal approach of FGLG work was that changes in forest governance rarely take place as a result of planned and structured processes and that individuals, if provided with sufficient support to undertake targeted action, can be an important catalyst for change.

Motivating FGLG work was a shared belief that forestry could improve livelihoods, contribute to the eradication of poverty, increase natural resource sustainability and enhance human rights, but only through 'good' forest governance involving the right leadership, institutions, policy decisions and practical systems.



Forest Governance Learning Group, March 2013, Tengchong, China. © Simon Lim / IIED

# Cameroon

## Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans

- Recognition of the FGLG as a country hub on forest governance, leading to leveraged partnerships and FGLG work being supported and taken forward by others.
- Influence achieved at prime ministerial level and across key ministries, with stronger working relations and the emergence of collaboration agreements laying the basis for FGLG contributions to be translated into stronger policy action on an interrelated range of forest governance, climate change, biodiversity and green economy issues.
- Effective FGLG input into policies on benefit sharing of forest revenues and improved stakeholder understanding of ways to reform laws to strengthen the legitimacy of non-timber forest products.
- Constructive engagement of members of parliament on illegal logging, REDD+ and related issues.
- Development and dissemination of policy analysis linking forest governance thinking to pursuit of a green economy.

## Progress<sup>1</sup> – creating a hub on forest governance and the green economy

The *Groupe de Réflexion et d'Etude sur la Gouvernance des Forêts* (GREG-Forêts), as the FGLG is known in Cameroon, is an alliance of key individuals – 40 per cent of them women – from seven organisations with diverse networks and expertise. Hosted by an NGO, the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Africa (NESDA), GREG-Forêts plays a strong role in lobbying policymakers and engaging stakeholders. It has organised numerous targeted dialogues on various forestry governance issues, exploiting the diverse links of the group's individual members to involve a cross-section of agencies from government, civil society, international NGOs, academia, the donor community and the private sector.

Cameroon's forest sector is of crucial importance to addressing poverty and climate change and promoting more equitable and sustainable patterns of economic growth in the country. Many of those living in severe poverty – almost a third of the population – are forest dependent and indigenous people who rely on local forests for subsistence farming and their livelihoods but whose rights to do so are not clearly established and often contested in protected areas.

Forests cover 42 per cent of Cameroon yet contribute just 1.9 per cent of GNP, with forest loss and degradation accounting for over half of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Cameroon's evergreen forests are internationally important biodiversity hotspots and provide habitat for a range of globally threatened and endemic species.

## Extending thinking, coordinating action

GREG-Forêts has a good track record in seizing opportunities to promote findings and practical policy recommendations on forest rights and small forest enterprises. Such efforts included organisation of a major workshop in 2011 on this issue and, in 2012, production of a wider policy brief, 'Current issues and future prospects in greening the economy of Cameroon' – discussing requirements for such an economy including clearer rights for local enterprise, more strongly defined legality, and better incentives, for example, from climate change finance. This extended forest governance thinking to other key sectors – such as renewable energies, clean technologies, water services, mining and agriculture – and identified the main challenges facing the contribution of this analytical approach to promoting social equity and economic growth while respecting ecological limits.

The policy brief has been distributed to the services unit of the Prime Minister's office – a focal point of engagement, given its role in coordinating action across government – as well as the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED). Building on the good relationship GREG-Forêts has continued to develop with government, the aim of dissemination within ministries and to other stakeholders has been to boost the potential of GREG-Forêts to contribute to shaping the country's green economy policy.

The publication has also helped to target important national and international events held in Cameroon in 2013, such as the African Model Forest Network (AMFN) conference in March where a panel session was held using its findings. The GREG-Forêts convenor works for AMFN, demonstrating the value of the institutional links of team members.

## Setting the agenda

In 2011, GREG-Forêts also ran a major initiative on law, rights and capacity issues, linking illegality in forest products with the issue of 'illegitimacy'. This centred on a two-day workshop, 'Reflection on strategies for reconciling legality and legitimacy of forest products in Cameroon'. Recommendations from this event have been influential in subsequent debates on forest product trade policy and continue to be promoted by the group. Similarly, with the aim of tackling another crucial policy issue linked to forestry governance, the group organised a research synthesis and workshop initiative on 'Mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts in Cameroon'. The significance of its recommendations was subsequently highlighted in 2012 with the massacre of some 200 elephants, which led MINEPDED to ask GREG-Forêts to contribute directly to revision of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP).

Meanwhile, in work to engage and build the capacity of members of Parliament (MPs) on climate-linked issues, GREG-Forêts members have developed an agenda-setting role in REDD+ in particular, advocating forestry rights and small forestry enterprise in the national REDD+ development processes. The team's work led MPs in several constituencies in the south and southwest of the country to hold awareness-raising events on illegal logging. A policy brief developed on REDD+ for MPs, also shared with ministries, prompted a request from the Prime Minister to see all documents the team produces so that he can call on relevant ministries to respond to their recommendations.

Following meetings in late 2013 with officials of the Prime Minister's office and heads of some ministerial departments, GREG-Forêts drafted a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with MINFOF and MINEPDED respectively to establish a formal collaboration framework with each ministry. Preliminary talks were also held with the Minister for small and medium-sized enterprises, social economy and handicrafts to reach a similar agreement with MINPMEESA. In addition, a request was received from the University of Yaoundé to provide input on 'land grab' issues.

## Consolidating learning

In common with other country FGLGs, GREG-Forêts focused on the production and consolidation of key information products and communications during 2013, in order to maximise the impact of the project. The group developed an I-learn technique (from international learning events) for holding quick and highly focused events targeting particular themes, with a 2013 Cameroon case study on strengthening community benefits from protected areas complementing earlier events in 2012 on climate change and green business.

GREG-Forêts also produced a summary of all outputs produced, including work on biodiversity mainstreaming, the green economy, REDD+ and the legality and legitimacy of NTFPs, and shared it widely, particularly at the March 2013 international FGLG learning event in China (see section on international FGLG work), through on online platforms and at a major GREG-Forêts stakeholder roundtable held in September 2013.

This included sharing and promoting the strategic value of model forests for eco-agribusiness for climate change adaptation, drawing on the current work of RAFM's B-Adapt project coaching very small forestry enterprises (VSFEs) in two model forest sites in the east and south of Cameroon. Reflecting the role of GREG-Forêts in nurturing the emergence of collaborative stakeholder platforms and their capacity to engage with policymakers, RAFM has signed its own MoU with MINFOF.

## Impact – stronger structures, positive changes?

FGLG work in Cameroon was the focus of an October 2013 field visit forming part of the research involved in evaluation of IIED's international FGLG project. The 2014 evaluation report found that GREG-Forêts' work had been highly relevant to the current challenges facing Cameroon's forest sector and had opened opportunities for continued engagement on key aspects of forest governance. The group had consolidated its role in providing an important national forum for discussion and promotion of necessary changes. Some of the main achievements and impacts include:

- Recognition of GREG-Forêts as an important player in forest governance discussions. This was due to the high profile and prominence, nationally and sometimes internationally, of its individual team members. Some have been appointed to high-responsibility management and advisory positions in MINFOF and MINEPDED.
- Raised state awareness of the role of GREG-Forêts and key forest governance issues, especially the Prime Minister's office. Partnerships and formal agreements with ministries such as MINFOF and MINEPDED have laid the basis for continued advice and engagement of policymakers.
- Influencing revision of the Forestry Law to strengthen the rights of communities to NTFPs (in turn affecting concession management where these rights are present), as well as a 2010 joint ministerial decree that finally included more equitable benefit-sharing arrangements on forest revenues, following GREG-Forêts counter-proposals.
- Ensuring more effective participation, transparency and accountability in national processes such as FLEGT, REDD+ and NBSAP development.
- Acting as a catalyst for the creation of wider collaborative platforms and initiatives such as the launch of RAFM's B-Adapt project in 2012-13.

For all such progress, however, and demonstrating the sheer scale of the challenges involved, the FGLG evaluation found little evidence of major positive shifts in forest governance in Cameroon during the 2009-13 project – in some cases a deterioration was detected – and that it was difficult to attribute the few beneficial changes that had occurred specifically to GREG-Forêts.

Another important evaluation finding was that many actors external to the FGLG initiative in Cameroon lack awareness and knowledge of its work, despite the team being valued by those in contact with it as an effective national forum for discussion and promotion of collaborative action on forest governance. It would appear that GREG-Forêts is primarily known for the work of its individual team members rather than the group they belong to.

At the same time, the evaluation found that GREG-Forêts does have a coherent identity and that, despite team members often being overstretched as a result of high external demand for their support and engagement, it is likely to be highly sustainable as an initiative. This is due to the success of the group in developing formal linkages with government and the strong

potential for further support from in-country partners. Overall, the evaluation concluded that the demonstrated ability of GREG-Forêts to work collaboratively rather than in isolation meant that investment in its work had represented good value for money.

## Future plans – turning agreements into committed action

The main priorities and specific ideas identified by the FGLG in Cameroon to build on the progress, achievements and impact of the project include:

- Sustaining productive engagement of the Prime Minister's office and ensuring that the development of partnerships and finalisation of agreements with MINFOF and MINEPDED is translated into formalised collaboration and ongoing implementation.
- Taking stronger advantage of the presence of GREG-Forêts members in such ministries, including a MINFOF anti-corruption unit created in late 2012 and implementing its 2013-15 work plan.
- Replicating the development and institutionalisation of such collaboration with other key ministries such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and MINPMEESA, building on meetings already held with officials.
- Engaging government and civil society to ensure that sector ministries now integrate biodiversity into their respective strategies, building on the new NBSAP elaborated with civil society input organised by GREG-Forêts at the request of MINEPDED.
- Conducting advocacy to ensure success in shaping the content of the 2010 joint ministerial decree on the sharing of forest revenues now leads to benefits for communities, with research needed to assess the effectiveness and impact of policy implementation.
- Capitalising on the interest of MINFOF to work with RAFM to extend the success of VSFE mentoring in the two existing model forest sites to other localities in Cameroon, with a policy brief also produced to document the initiative's implementation and results and share its lessons with other FGLG members.
- Carrying out advocacy on small forest enterprises, particularly to improve the market regulatory environment for local non-timber products, markets, and businesses.
- Pursuing and strengthening relations with MPs in both low and high chambers of Parliament as they embark on new terms in office, providing them with continued advice and technical support on the REDD process.
- Producing and promoting a report on REDD+ and opportunities for local livelihoods and carbon-smart business.
- Playing a key role in IIED's China-Africa forest governance project, planned to start in 2014, in which Cameroon is one of four focus countries in Africa (see section on international FGLG work).

# Ghana

## Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans

- Communities supported and networked to strengthen their voice, with the holding of local and national forest forums building momentum for greater community participation in the governance and management of forests.
- Contribution made to positive reform of the country's forest and wildlife policy.
- FGLG in Ghana recognised as an effective intermediary and helping to promote stronger coordination and synergies between the various multi-stakeholder platforms working on forest governance.
- Rekindling of civil society engagement with implementation of Ghana's Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU.
- Stumpage review carried out to assess the scale of revenue losses, with a view to laying the basis for proposals advocating forest revenue reforms bringing greater benefits to communities.
- Shifts in the discussion towards the need for a big push to change forest tenure arrangements.

## Progress<sup>2</sup> – rekindling FLEGT and sparking bottom-up pressure for change

Ghana's FGLG structure has evolved and operates in a multidimensional and catalytic way, with overall coordination provided by a leader from the NGO, Civic Response, who acts as the FGLG's convenor along with a colleague. The FGLG team also consists of a core group of individual leading thought-leaders from civil society, industry, government and academia, selected by virtue of their influential roles in the forest sector, particularly in relation to Ghana's involvement in the Reducing Emissions through Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) process and the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance through Trade (FLEGT) initiative involving voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs) between exporting countries and the EU to curb the trade in illegal timber.

The FGLG has additionally involved the convening of a much wider reference group of stakeholders concerned with forest governance, including representatives of communities, the Trades Union Congress and the disability movement among others. In performing this role,

the reference group has not only engaged with the analytical insights and outputs generated by the FGLG core group and shared these interactively with the various constituencies its members represent, but also acted as an important platform for promoting the inclusion of vital contributions and lessons from grassroots processes in policy-making.

To this end, the reference group increasingly interacted during the course of the project with Ghana's National Forest Forum (NFF-G), a civil society network, which has combined bottom-up discussion and engagement on forest governance with reflection, feedback and recommendations for government policies and policy implementation. FGLG, for example, contributed to the NFF-G's 2011 national event. The gathering was the culmination of a participatory process of forest forum consultation in 19 administrative districts of Ghana.

In order to consolidate evidence and facilitate dialogue on practical steps to improve the quality and coherence of forest governance, the reference group organised its own series of events and contributions to stakeholder consultations in 2011 and 2012.

## From local voices to a national forum

In May 2011, a two-day meeting of the reference group, attended by 33 participants from Forest Watch Ghana, facilitators of community and district forest forums, local and international NGOs as well as government, considered a range of critical issues on forest governance and climate change. Discussions included the challenges of VPA implementation, Ghana's approach to REDD+ strategy roll-out (through complementary multilateral finance from the Forest Investment Programme (FIP) aimed at 'transformative change' in forest practices), and the implications of the emerging new National Forest Plantation Development Programme.

This was followed in 2012 by three FGLG-supported local forums to bring stakeholders together across various regions of Ghana to discuss FLEGT implementation. One forest forum involved five districts from the northern region, another was held with 12 districts from Brong Ahafo, Ashanti and eastern regions, and the other saw the participation of 12 districts from the western, central and Volta regions.

Reflecting the complex range of forest governance challenges, the events involved local farmers, teachers, lumber traders, chainsaw loggers and NGO activists, as well as officials from the forestry services division, national fire service, district assemblies and the police service. They discussed key issues affecting communities and other local stakeholders, such as the illegal harvesting of rosewood in the northern savannah; violence and intimidation against farmers and disruption of their livelihoods by transborder pastoralists; the invasion and destruction of forest areas and reserves by illegal miners; inadequate levels of revenue from natural resources and the lack of transparency and equity in its distribution; and the need for strategies to increase the power of communities over local forests to tackle chainsaw logging, while addressing the fate of such loggers in the light of changes in domestic timber market policy.

FGLG also supported the 2012 NFF-G meeting held in Accra in November. Two members of its core group – one an official from the Forestry Commission (FC), the other drawn from the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources – lent their expertise on VPA implementation and

FIP financing, and also acted as a highly valuable informal bridge for civil society dialogue with official bodies on key issues.

## Overcoming ‘technical’ barriers to progress in FLEGT

As a Legality Assurance System (LAS) is needed for implementation of a VPA with the EU, a critical issue debated at the NFF-G forum was parliamentary approval of Legislative Instrument 2184 passing into law timber legality licensing regulations. This law provides a legal basis for the issuing of FLEGT licenses, with a timber validation council created to oversee the work of the validation department of the FC. Of major concern to NFF-G was that the final law, unlike earlier drafts, had omitted reference to civil society’s participation in the validation council, though this position was eventually reversed, possibly as a result of the FGLG core group members using their expert authority and contacts within government to raise wider official awareness of the need to recognise and support the potential contribution of civil society.

Nurturing civil society’s capacity and influence has been an important priority for the FGLG, as marked by efforts during 2012 to rekindle its engagement with VPA implementation. Despite an active role in VPA negotiation, civil society’s role had somewhat dwindled since, partly due to the slow pace of official reform but also because the FC had tended to regard issues such as the LAS as ‘too technical’ for civil society participation. The FGLG reference group has been at pains to oppose this analysis and to encourage civil society involvement, ensuring that the timber validation process under the LAS is taken forward in the right direction, properly implemented and effectively monitored.

In further reviewing VPA progress, an FGLG meeting in December 2012 proposed that civil society could strengthen its knowledge and role on forest legislation through stronger relations and interaction with relevant parliamentary committees and the attorney general’s office and also push for stronger recognition of governance principles such as free, prior, informed consent for forestry projects and fair compensation for loss of land and displacement.

## Monitoring abuses, assessing losses

The importance of civil society monitoring and oversight of VPA implementation was highlighted in 2011, when a meeting of the core group was called to react to internal information from FC sources revealing the scale of ‘salvage permits’ in operation and the difficulty of preventing timber harvested in this way – supposedly destined only for the domestic market – from being exported under the VPA. Such permits are issued administratively, purportedly to help distressed timber companies, without recourse to the competitive bidding and parliamentary ratification required under the VPA. In response, members of the FGLG facilitated a civil society letter voicing concern to the FC and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and held meetings with ministers. In 2013, however, despite government agreement to halt such administrative issuance and parliament’s commitment to monitor compliance, a Global Witness report alleged that abuse of the salvage permit system was continuing.

In 2013, FGLG Ghana, in a major research project with Forest Watch Ghana, carried out a review of stumpage value and fees to assess the scale of revenue losses, with a view to feeding into

discussion of fiscal reforms ensuring greater public capture and more equitable distribution of natural resource revenues and the challenges ahead for regulators and industry.

## From parallel work to complementarity

The team has remained connected to key processes in the sector, including the development of action plans for the revised forest policy; the subsequent legal reviews; and the development of the projects for support under the FIP. Despite complications in engagement over forest tenure reform, which has needed to move to a broader civil society-driven process, FGLG-Ghana continues to join forces with others for a big push on forest tenure change, in particular aiming to create and seize opportunities to clarify local tree tenure.

Indeed, one of the main problems facing the achievement of improvements in forest governance has been the proliferation of multi-stakeholder platforms and processes, which have tended to work in parallel, though promising signs of efforts to create greater complementarity and synergies are now being shown. The FGLG team has sought to take the initiative to harmonise and connect the various platforms for forest governance – notably the local and national forest forums. This has involved consultations with key players and platforms, including the NFF-G, the forest forums organised by Civic Response and Forest Watch Ghana, the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue facilitated by Tropenbos International, and the Forestry Commission's resource management support centre.

## Impact – giving way to a more collaborative approach

Some of the main achievements and impacts of the FGLG in Ghana include:

- The FGLG's ability to play an effective intermediary role, for example between the Forestry Commission, civil society and the private sector. This has helped to strengthen stakeholder interaction, improve mutual understanding and change mindsets. However, the engagement of government and industry players is still weak and needs to be strengthened and sustained.
- FGLG's involvement and facilitation leading to palpable signs of an improvement in the level and quality of dialogue between civil society and official representatives. Highly critical assessment of government efforts on the part of the former and very defensive reactions on the part of the latter have gradually given way to a more collaborative approach.
- Civil society welcoming the participation of officials from government and state bodies in their events on account of their association with the FGLG.
- Official recognition of the FGLG's constructive role in supporting multi-stakeholder dialogue and greater civil society engagement. This was shown by a Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources request for a Civic Response consultant to propose a process for consulting on reform of tree tenure arrangements, and by government acceptance of civil society

representation on the Timber Validation Council (a likely result of team members' informal brokerage).

- FGLG has carved out a key role for itself in supporting the FLEGT process, with stronger goodwill in industry to work more closely with CSOs and government on legality compliance.
- Influential contributions to the legal and policy review of the forest sector, including the 1994 Forest and Wildlife Policy, which concluded in October 2012 with unprecedented opportunities for strengthening community participation in the governance and management of forests.
- A ban on Ghanaian rosewood exports effective from the end of 2013, following Forest Watch Ghana advocacy stemming from identification of illegal rosewood harvesting as a key issue in the FGLG-based forest forums.

## Future plans – achieving reforms, nurturing a new generation of leaders

The main priorities and specific ideas identified for FGLG in Ghana to build on the progress, achievements and impact of the project include:

- Helping to ensure that agreements reached to promote stronger synergies between the various civil society and multi-stakeholder platforms are followed up and implemented in practice, with a national conference on collaborative forest resources management providing a landmark opportunity to do so.
- Working with Forest Watch Ghana and others to ensure that the FC consults fully on the Ghanaian Legal Timber Verification Manual (verification protocol). This is a key instrument for effective VPA implementation as it is expected to tie down the definition of legality, minimising the opportunity for ambiguity and misinterpretations, and must be properly understood, owned and supported by all forest governance stakeholders.
- Harnessing the momentum of the 2013 research study findings on stumpage fees to advocate an overall review and reforms of the fiscal regime in order to ensure that forest revenue is maximised and spent to the greater benefit of communities.
- Promoting concerted action to ensure that the Forestry Commission's work is decentralised and based on collaborative approaches to forest governance, as identified as a priority by communities during forest forums.
- Using and securing resources to maintain and further develop the FGLG's core functions.
- Identifying and nurturing the development of the next generation of thought leaders who are likely to play an influential role in forest governance over the next decade. Adopting this longer-term approach will help to overcome the frequent problem experienced by civil society of individuals leaving their positions.

# India

## Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans

- Well-connected team members from diverse sectors playing an influential role in key official bodies on forest governance, linking their experience of strong engagement with state governments with increasingly strong influence at a national level and coordinating their inputs for optimal impact.
- Significant influence over the reshaping of forest rights legislation and implementation.
- Successful support for communities to secure their forest rights harnessed to initiatives creating the potential for tangible benefits in their livelihoods.
- Community-level learning injected into both state-and national-level discussions on taking REDD+ strategy forward.
- Members using their influence and support to forge stronger institutional synergies between afforestation initiatives and pro-poor forest governance and climate change strategies in the context of REDD+.

## Progress<sup>3</sup> – from law to livelihoods: making forest rights a reality for people

The FGLG in India has worked on a range of key forest governance themes and adopted a system of designating a 'thematic leader' to coordinate work on each within an agreed action plan so as to maximise focus and impact. The group has been hosted and convened by different individuals and organisations, most recently by LANDESA-Rural Development Institute (based in Bhubhaneswar, Odisha) and by the Enviro-Legal Defence Firm (Delhi) in 2009-11.

As in other countries, members of the FGLG belong to the group on an individual rather than institutional basis. Drawn from civil society organisations of different kinds, including NGOs and legal defence firms, as well as academic institutions and national-and state-level government, their profile, connections and recognised expertise on forest governance have enabled them to exert influence, individually and collectively, at a senior level in decision-making forums.

Since 2011, membership has increased to include media professionals and a great number of officials, including the head of the Green India Mission, which was launched to boost afforestation as part of India's official national action plan on climate change. Such additions have enhanced FGLG's public outreach and awareness-raising and its communication and

dialogue with government departments. In support of such aims, FGLG India runs its own website, which has facilitated stakeholder discussions on specific themes.

## Strengthening group cohesion and national policy engagement

With FGLG's members spread across India, sustaining the cohesion of the groups and the effective targeting of members' expertise has been an achievement in itself. During the course of the project, the focus of the FGLG's work has shifted from initiatives in individual states to much stronger policy engagement at the national level.

Examples of the key policy forums, public institutions and private bodies in which members of the FGLG have provided expertise, submitted policy contributions and achieved informal influence include various sub-groups of India's Planning Commission (such as those relating to forest and natural resource management and the sub-group on international cooperation, where FGLG was officially recognised as a model of good practice); the Forest Certification Council of India, a private standard body created in India in 2010 to improve national practice on forest governance, in the context of growing international initiatives on forestry and climate change; the holding of the first National Forestry Congress in 2011, where FGLG members were lead speakers; and, in particular, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).

One of the key topics of recent FGLG engagement with MoEF, in view of moves to decentralise forest management under the 2006 Forest Rights Act (FRA) in the face of traditional state control, has been the risks of renewed joint forest management discussions (JFM+) for communities independently managing forests. To make the case for community forest management, the FGLG drew on the findings of a 2010 study identifying lessons and successful experiences. India has around 23 per cent forest cover and many of the 71 per cent of people living in rural areas depend on forests for their livelihoods.

FGLG-India was also invited to the first official meeting on REDD preparedness by the government and has continued to be involved in dialogues feeding into the national REDD+ strategy.

## Rising to the challenges on the Forest Rights Act

In straddling work focused on forest rights, forest enterprise and pro-poor climate change mitigation and adaptation through forestry, a central concern of FGLG's efforts in the later years of the project has been to rise to the challenges and opportunities created by 2012 amendments to FRA rules and the development of guidelines for FRA implementation. The FRA recognises the rights of forest dwellers to forests and secures their tenure, but the pace of implementation since its introduction in 2006 had been slow and criticisms had been made that it had focused in practice on forest land distribution rather than community empowerment.

In 2011, the team gathered evidence on FRA implementation in different states and used its comparative analysis to contribute to the development of guidelines for community forest rights in eastern India, focusing in particular on the need for their integration in programmes at field level. Building on this experience, in 2012, the team then played an important part in drafting adjustment of the FRA rules at both national and state levels.

Following successful contribution to rule adjustment, FGLG members have provided a critical support for effective FRA implementation through technical assistance, knowledge-sharing and contributions to complementary policy reform. An innovative aspect of FGLG's approach has been to involve local youth as community resource persons. The FGLG has also facilitated capacity building to strengthen the approach of a wide range of stakeholders and government officials in different parts of India, including Rajasthan and Maharashtra, with the Enviro Legal Defence Firm also supporting the state of Jharkhand with implementation of the revised Act. A training and advocacy manual on FRA has been produced and is now established as a key tool used by state and non-state actors. In 2013, the FGLG also launched an advice and referral service.

As the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) holds responsibility for implementing the FRA, FGLG has engaged with MoTA as well as MOEF, as demonstrated by a 2012 workshop on FRA implementation jointly held with MoTA in Bhubhaneswar, Odisha.

## From legal claims to backing small forestry enterprise

With stronger momentum in FRA implementation generated by the revisions in 2012, the FGLG has turned its attention to the challenge of ensuring that the granting of forest rights titles does indeed translate into secure tenure and lays the practical basis for communities to achieve and sustain substantial improvements in their livelihoods. As well as providing practical support and advice for legal settlements upholding community forest rights, a paper on 'post-claim' strategy has now been published, for example. This explores the need for FRA implementation to be properly linked with other policies, schemes and programmes that might provide technical support, finance and investment to boost the productivity of small forestry enterprise. In Odisha, the FGLG has supported attempts to strengthen the potential pro-poor benefits of FRA implementation by proposing links with more equitable approaches to revenue land distribution, including in a contribution to a major publication on this topic produced for the state government.

To help boost community benefits from small forest enterprise, the FGLG has continued its focus on recognition of legitimate, responsibly harvested non-timber forest products. Following its 2011 success in contributing to the eventual classification of bamboo as an NTFP – a similar campaign was supported for kendu (also known as tendu, used for 'country' cigarettes) leaf – in 2013, the FGLG turned its attention to the implications of US and EU initiatives against trade in illegal timber for NTFPs, producing a paper on the impact of Lacey Act and FLEGT regulations on wood-based industries. As a member of the sub-group of the Planning Commission, the FGLG had earlier contributed to NTFPs being included in India's twelfth five-year plan for 2012-17. Recognition of their potential contribution to national economic development could lead to greater support for NTFP research and development and funding; and the group has examined the prospects under the JFM+ process and the Green India Mission for promoting large-scale afforestation. In considering the role of the Green India Mission, the group has drafted legal research on the use of funding from the Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority, reputed to total US\$6 billion. It analyses whether CAMPA is an appropriate model for dealing with India's diminishing forest cover, if it can be made more robust, and whether conditions for approving projects diverting forest and forest land to other uses are being applied and monitored.

## Growth and climate change: time to invest in trees

As growing timber demand fuelled by economic growth is being largely met by cheap imports rather than local production, the FGLG also studied the current status of long-term investment in tree plantations and whether plans meet the country's needs in ways that are environmentally sustainable and socially equitable. FGLG members contributed substantially to a report on forestry on private land and non-forest land under government control published in 2012 by an MoEF committee dealing with tree farming. A paper, 'Forest Governance and Institutional Reforms in India: Urgent and Now' " is also being published.

The FGLG has also sought to inject community-level learning into both state and national level discussions on taking REDD+ strategy forward. Following 11 field consultations and the holding of a national consultation on REDD+ during 2011, the FGLG produced a policy brief with highlights from the events and, in 2012, a community guide to REDD+ as well as a field guide to enable communities to measure their own carbon. In 2013, plans were also made for follow-up REDD+ initiatives in the eastern and western Himalayas with state forest departments.



Forest Governance Learning Group, December 2010, Namaacha, Mozambique. Ratna Akiefawati (FGLG-Indonesia): plants a seedling. © IIED

## Impact – empowering people, becoming a source of advice for the state

FGLG work in India was the focus of an October 2013 field visit forming part of the research involved in evaluation of IIED's international FGLG project. The 2014 report of the project evaluator concluded that the group had been particularly effective in influencing FRA formulation and implementation, with direct implications for large numbers of forest-dependent people. It noted too that the group's position as a trusted partner for key ministries had been strengthened by its strong downward links with field-based projects and actions.

According to the evaluation and country reports, the main achievements and specific impacts of the FGLG in India include the following:

- With FGLG support, there have been successful cases of forest rights and resource titles being conferred on a community rather than individual basis (as in Kerala and Chhattisgarh states), benefiting vulnerable tribal groups.
- The use of participatory approaches has boosted forest communities' own capacity to negotiate with the official bodies and claim their rights.
- FGLG engagement has meant that, under the amended FRA, post-claim support for communities securing forest rights is now mandatory, creating the potential for legal settlements to be increasingly harnessed to improvements in their livelihoods.
- The FGLG has contributed to the democratisation of forest governance through the effective engagement of key officials and institutions, helping to create specific centres of excellence that wider government and state structures can refer to. This has led, for example, to a more flexible and less monolithic approach by the Forest Department, and the FGLG is recognised itself as a resource that the government can use to develop better policy and practice.
- Policy evidence gathered in the field by FGLG helped bring about a minimum support price for 12 NTFPs during the project.
- Bamboo, on which many tribal and marginal forest dwellers are dependent and hitherto controlled by the Forest Department, has also now been recognised as a legitimate NTFP.
- The FGLG has enabled the perspectives of community forestry stakeholders to be brought into consultations on REDD+ at state and national levels.
- The presence and influence of FGLG members at relevant senior levels of government has played a role in the emergence of the Green India Mission aiming to increase afforestation and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## Future plans – replicating achievements and maximising synergies

The main priorities and specific ideas identified for the FGLG in India to build on the progress, achievements and impact of the project include:

- Supporting the replication of successful forest right claims by communities and their ability to access post-claim support as part of continued strengthening of FRA implementation, using translation of the training and advocacy manual into other languages to maximise continued outreach and impact.
- Documenting the methods and strategies used in successful cases so far and disseminating the lessons for effective approaches in support of the above.
- Building on FGLG input into a decision by the state government of Odisha to allow CAMPA funds to be used for post-claim support, exploring whether and how this could become a model for FRA implementation in Odisha and also be replicated across the country.
- Further strengthening the monitoring of forest diversion and the violation of conditions attached to forest clearances in response to the rising number of challenges overloading the National Green Tribunal. A participatory institutional mechanism needs to be set up to review whether clearance is necessary in the first place and compliant if it occurs.
- Devising strategies to help make the most of the distinct strengths of key national ministries (such as the MoEF, the MoTA, the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj) and their state-level counterparts and create effective synergies between them, with institutions properly staffed and financed to support continued improvements in forest governance over the long term.
- Harnessing stronger official effectiveness and institutional synergies to the provision of stronger financial support for grassroots organisations, with FGLG helping the latter to define their own thematic strategies, strengthen their organisation and gain greater access to funding.
- Considering working towards becoming a think tank capable of sustaining contributions to policymakers on Indian forestry over the long term.
- Examining the need for the training curriculum of the country's forestry institutions and their training of forestry trainers to be re-assessed in the light of forestry reforms.
- Exploring the potential of the private sector to make a positive contribution to sustaining forestry resources, upholding forest rights and enhancing the role of forestry in the economy.
- Monitoring the progress of the Green India Mission and its effectiveness in helping to link afforestation with pro-poor forest governance and climate change strategies in the context of REDD+.
- Preparing a possible position paper to feed into the MoEF's REDD+ unit, covering international best practice; policy and legal opportunities and constraints; governance and institutional strategies and innovative methods to scale up REDD+; monitoring, reporting and verification systems; and impact on indigenous peoples.

# Indonesia

## Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans

- The FGLG has successfully promoted change ‘from within’ through the strong presence of progressive government and state officials in the group, while steadily nurturing growing trust and interaction with civil society on forest governance and climate change.
- The FGLG’s ‘alumni’ system has enabled the group to renew and sustain the impact of its membership, with senior members rising to influential positions and well-connected across government and NGOs.
- FGLG engagement across multiple ministries and institutions has created the potential for better coordination and harmonisation of policy, with work winning stronger recognition of sustainable forest management as essential for successful REDD+ implementation and also showing signs of changing stakeholder attitudes and behaviour.
- FGLG support for local communities, combined with engagement of official bodies, has achieved important practical gains in terms of financial support, land tenure and income generation, with the lessons of success stories creating opportunities for wider replication and impact.
- Plans underway to improve case study documentation and extend the range of policy institutions targeted, while focusing on selected provinces and deepening community engagement at district level.

## Progress<sup>4</sup> – championing ‘change from within’

Since 2005, FGLG Indonesia has been promoting its members as champions of good forest governance, developing their capacity to act as catalysts (convincing key decision-makers of the importance of change), solution-providers (helping target groups deal with specific problems met in undertaking change), mediators (facilitating progress in institutional reform within and across key ministries and regional and national government), liaison brokers (strengthening coordination and interaction among stakeholders, particularly the public, civil society organisations and policymakers) and negotiators (building trust and more open working relationships and agreements between practitioners and decision-makers).



Forest Governance Learning Group, December 2009, Bali, Indonesia. Field trip © IIED

## Driving a ‘silent revolution’ and group renewal

A distinct feature of FGLG Indonesia is that while it has been an independent initiative, such champions have been largely drawn from government and state bodies, especially the Ministry of Forestry (MoF). The premise has been that progressive officials can be effective in driving a ‘silent revolution’ from within official bureaucratic structures, and that multi-stakeholder promotion of wider change in the country will be more effectively supported if it works with the grain of Indonesia’s culture of *tut wuri handayani*, whereby the actions and examples of teachers and leaders are followed in communities.

At same time, group membership, reflecting the growing trust and working relations between state and non-state actors fostered by the FGLG, has increasingly extended to individuals from Indonesian civil society, international NGOs and universities. The group has been convened since 2012 by the non-governmental Natural Resource Development Centre.

The FGLG has operated an ‘alumni’ system in which members remain connected with the group as they progress professionally within their own organisations. As FGLG alumni become more senior, they are well placed to exercise strategic influence on behalf of the group. In renewing its fluid membership, however, the group has also shown an ability to engage with junior professionals in MoF, thus nurturing and sustaining new expertise and commitment and the prospects for continued influence over the longer term. Seen externally as crucial hubs sharing and disseminating vital information, FGLG members have played a central role in influencing forest governance processes and strategies.

## Climate challenges and breaking silos in REDD+

The main aim of the FGLG's recent contributions has been to influence the development of Indonesia's national strategy on REDD+. The group, involved in REDD activities since 2007 when Indonesia hosted the UN climate change conference in Bali, took advantage of REDD's wider framing of forest resource issues to promote an approach aimed at overcoming the traditional sectoral siloing of the forest governance question alongside other policies and plans on agriculture, land, mining and economic growth.

With significant pledges to tackle climate change announced in 2009 and 2010 – including the signing of a US\$1 billion 2010-14 partnership agreement with Norway made conditional on strategy finalisation, creation of a national REDD+ agency and selection of a pilot province for REDD+ demonstration activities – forest governance and REDD+ had become major news in Indonesia in 2011. The FGLG, making use of its official connections, inputted into development of the national strategy through participation in the 2010-13 REDD+ task force set up by Indonesia's president, which brought together senior decision-makers from ministries and other institutions, such as the MoF, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Finance, the National Development Planning Agency, the National Land Agency, the Office of the Cabinet secretariat and the Indonesia National Council on Forestry.

The group pushed for reform of forest governance, focused on community forestry as prerequisites for the effectiveness of REDD+ in tackling climate change, and nurtured agreement that REDD+ strategy discussions should involve stronger engagement at a community level. To help overcome information gaps and the lack of public awareness and understanding, the team produced and disseminated an interactive presentation for decision-makers at all levels to use in sharing information and discussing REDD+ with local stakeholders.

Finally released in June 2012, the national REDD+ strategy reflected the significant influence of FGLG members, stressing as it did the need for integrated governance and regulatory systems, effective institutional plans for REDD+ implementation, and commitment to enhanced stakeholder engagement and capacity building. The group was also involved in developing the criteria used to select the pilot province (Central Kalimantan) for REDD+ demonstration activity; it went on to produce a grassroots training module with RECOFTC support to help take the work forward.

Launch of the strategy has since provided an incentive for the FGLG to step up its efforts to promote coherent institutional approaches to tackling forest governance and climate change challenges in ways that combine a focus on forest communities with promoting policy clarity for all forestry players. For example, the group has focused on convening discussions with key officials from the ministries of finance and forestry to review REDD+ benefit-sharing arrangements. It has developed recommendations to improve their credibility and effectiveness, given misunderstandings and confusion over expected financial benefits (due to weaknesses and legal uncertainties in the land tenure system), which risk undermining public support for Indonesia's participation in the global scheme.

Moreover, to support the improved implementation of REDD+, the group has produced analysis

and case studies on topics such as the lessons of payments for ecosystem services systems for REDD+ benefit-sharing and REDD+ demonstration activities in three types of forests (production, conservation and community forests), and has also contributed to evaluations. This included an assessment of UN-REDD's national programme in which the FGLG took part in a UNEP-supported initiative to assess the effectiveness of communication strategy.

Indeed, communication has been an important strength of the work of the FGLG, which has supported the capacity of journalists from print, broadcast and online media to provide accurate, balanced information on REDD+ to public audiences, in part with the aim of tacking unrealistic expectations of financial benefits from REDD+ activities.

Efforts have also been made to promote a focus on gender in REDD+ and ensure that women equitably benefit from REDD+ implementation, tackling the problem of women's marginalisation in decision-making and the fact that they often do not have access to or control of natural resources, despite their involvement in and reliance on forestry.

## Defining and supporting sustainable forest management

Underpinning the FGLG's promotion of coherent institutional approaches has been a concern when clarifying the concept of sustainable forest management (SFM) – differently interpreted by stakeholders – and to drive stronger shared understanding as the indispensable anchor of future REDD+ implementation. For the FGLG, SFM involves shifting wood production from natural forests to plantation forests; replacing wood forest products with non-wood forest products; concentrating on forest concessions to communities rather than forestry conglomerations; refocusing forest management systems to optimise the full range of forest functions instead of log production; and decentralising the forest management authority.

During the project, the FGLG registered several successes in supporting community forestry and linking local impact with efforts to achieve wider support and solutions benefiting communities. Work has concentrated since 2009 on community forests on private land, known as *Hutan Rakyat* (HR), in Java. For example, in one district, a community teak initiative attained certification from the Forest Stewardship Council and the Indonesian Ecolabelling Institute. However, HR initiatives such as this often find it difficult to be recognised as 'bankable' (using a plantation as collateral for loans, for example) to access capital to scale up activities. Another challenge has been the 2013 introduction of a legality assurance system (LAS) for timber certification, applied to all wood products, which has been seen by communities as a further compliance burden hindering their greater access to markets.

In response, the FGLG has convened and supported leading MoF and finance ministry officials to explore and develop innovative solutions to address the problems facing HR investment and product certification, including by organising field discussions and capacity-building with farmers. As a result, regulations were improved to enable HR to set up a revolving fund scheme in order to access credit from a finance ministry-controlled reforestation fund run by the public service agency handling performance-based budgets for the forestry sector. FGLG support led to a community group with plantations on private land in Gunung Kidul district becoming eligible and developing a credit proposal.

## Sandalwood success

From 2010, the FGLG similarly promoted significant improvements in forest management regulation of sandalwood in East Nusa Tenggara (ENT), the poorest province in Indonesia. Success followed the organisation of a prominent initiative backed by the International Tropical Timber Organization, for which an ENT-based champion, collaborating with an FGLG counterpart from central government, had won financial support. This was aimed at tackling policies and regulations preventing local people from benefiting from the economic value of sandalwood and discouraging their maintenance of a culturally significant species rapidly being depleted.

In 2012, following recommendations based on FGLG-supported consultations with communities, grassroots leaders, district heads and the provincial governor, as well as decision-makers from the MoF, the provincial government introduced adjustments to make the regulatory framework on sandalwood resources more equitable and beneficial. Communities harvesting sandalwood would now receive all proceeds from sales and, along with moves to strengthen security of land tenure, this would boost incentives for farmers to increase investment and maintain the crop in the long term.

The approach of officials has also shifted from licensing and policing to facilitating community development, with awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives to promote technical skills and best practice in planting and managing sandalwood.

With the FGLG, RECOFTC documented this story of change on video and in written material, and the experience was shared at a US-held symposium on sandalwood in September 2012.

## Addressing data and communication gaps

In terms of technical work geared to policymakers, an important priority has been to overcome the traditional lack of reliable data on deforestation and sustainable forest management. As several of Indonesia's REDD+ negotiators in UNFCCC are FGLG alumni, this issue has assumed additional significance at international climate change conferences the FGLG has taken part in. For example, at the COP18 meeting in Doha in December 2012, international NGOs questioned the calculation methodology used by MoF's national forest monitoring system in presenting data claiming that annual deforestation had fallen in 2009-11 to almost a third of its level for the last three years of the first half of the decade.

In the face of such challenges, the group persuaded the government that its deforestation methodology, if it was to provide a credible basis for support from global mechanisms such as REDD+, needed to be based on complete, consistent, accurate and comparable data. By 2013 there was evidence of much greater rigour in official selection and use of data sources to calculate deforestation rates more robustly. Progress towards greater transparency was also seen, as reflected by publication of data accessible to the public on the MoF website.

To capture and document the involvement of FGLG members in REDD+, the FGLG updated its database of members and activities in 2013 and uploaded it on the group's website. It also plans to strengthen its future communication work in order to maximise outreach and impact. Though translating complex concepts into graphic representations is difficult, visual outputs have been a

strength of the FGLG, but the group is keen to step up production of written materials and their translation into more local languages. Still needed is a skilled writer to interview FGLG alumni and write accessible case studies as a wider resource for external stakeholders. Internally, in-person forums have continued to prove highly effective in sharing information and formulating recommendations, but their organisation is very time-consuming.

## Impact – from breaking ice to changing minds and lives

Some of the main achievements and impacts of the FGLG in Indonesia include the following:

- The FGLG has become a recognised forum for multi-stakeholder learning on forest governance, sustainable forest management and climate change. This has been acknowledged by the MoF and bodies such as the National Council for Climate Change, which call on FGLG members for expert policy advice as well as support in stakeholder facilitation, negotiation and representation.
- Official mindsets within government have gradually shifted, including in relation to dialogue and communication with civil society, which has steadily increased and become more open, thanks to the ice-breaking and bridge-building efforts of the FGLG creating stronger trust and interaction.
- Senior policymakers in the MoF have pledged to make REDD+ progress the foundation of the ministry's 2015-19 strategic plan for the forestry sector, with FGLG engagement across multiple ministries and institutions creating the potential for stronger coordination and harmonisation of policy approaches.
- FGLG awareness-raising and practical support on REDD+ has started to change the attitudes and behaviour of key stakeholders, for example private companies (now more aware of the need for best SFM practices), official decision-makers (now more aware of the need for all activities to be monitored, reported and verified), communities (now more aware of the need to select and support pro-environment local leaders in the REDD+ pilot province).
- FGLG support has achieved tangible benefits for specific communities. This was demonstrated by the opening of opportunities for accessing credit in Java and new sandalwood regulations in ENT boosting the potential for income generation, more secure land tenure and better forest maintenance in the short and long term.
- Such progress, if built on and replicated elsewhere in the future, could help drive further development of district and provincial economies.

## Future plans – mainstreaming achievements and deepening engagement

The main priorities and specific ideas identified for the FGLG in Indonesia to build on the progress, achievements and impact of the project include:

- Sustaining and strengthening efforts to promote consistent and coordinated approaches to forest governance and climate change. Despite signs of progress in overcoming institutional and policy silos, more needs to be done. The forestry sector is crucial for climate change mitigation and meeting 2020 emission reduction targets, for example, yet it is also set to remain the dominant driver of economic growth, as envisaged in the national forestry plan for 2011-30.
- Further mainstreaming commitment to the concept of SFM as a vital condition for successful implementation of REDD+ strategy and stepping up discussion and analysis of the relationship of SFM and REDD+ with green economy approaches and proposals.
- Strengthening engagement of other key ministries and official bodies such as the foreign affairs ministry and the financial investigation agency.
- Extending awareness-raising and capacity building on forest governance and climate change to parliamentarians approving and overseeing government programmes and plans.
- Taking advantage of new bodies and policies, including the body created in September 2013 to lead REDD+ strategy, the May 2013 constitutional court decision to recognise customary forests, and the July 2013 enactment of law on the prevention and eradication of forest degradation.
- Dealing with challenge of Indonesia's size and diversity by concentrating work on a couple of selected target provinces, enabling deeper and more effective engagement at the district level than was possible during the recent project.
- Enhancing fundraising efforts and improving collaboration with donors and partners particularly to finance community-based REDD+ activities.
- Further exploiting the findings and lessons of recent assessments and case studies to strengthen policy recommendations aimed at the government, including continuing work on gender inclusive approaches to forest management and REDD+.
- Turning its original simple REDD+ presentation targeting decision-makers at all levels into a REDD+ training module formally endorsed by the MoF.

# Malawi

## Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans

- Catalyst in establishing the official task force and coordination mechanisms elaborating Malawi's national REDD+ strategy, including as an adviser to the Department of Forestry.
- Success in promoting the growing recognition of continued proposals for the sustainable production and trade of charcoal (also involving cross-team collaboration on charcoal trade with FGLGs in Tanzania and Mozambique), with progress achieved despite the constraints of a challenging political environment.
- Significant achievements in supporting stronger income generation from forestry, enabling communities to be more engaged in conservation and climate change mitigation.
- Effective support and promotion of clan-based forest management systems as vital to the security of land and tree tenure needed to make community forestry work, with potential created for scaling up replication of a successful pilot experience in Ntcheu district.
- Links, partnerships and the emergence of new initiatives stimulated by the FGLG to sustain impact of the work in the future.

## Progress<sup>5</sup> – from charcoal to cooperatives: how community forestry works

Launched in 2004, Malawi's FGLG began as a loose association of individuals interested in working together in their own professional capacity to explore better, workable approaches to forest governance. The group continues to have a broad membership, including government and non-government representatives, as well as donor-assisted project staff, and is convened by the Centre for Development Management (CDM). Since 2010, the group has operated in a more structured way, introducing contract agreements and work planning and reporting cycles.

Highlights from previous work phases included a highly influential study on the scale, nature and sustainability challenges of the charcoal trade and an important case study at Ntanda hill on the benefits of customary 'clan-based' management for sustaining forest resources, supplemented by additional research comparing areas with and without community-based forest management structures.

The value of such policy research and advocacy initiatives has continued to resonate in the 2009-13 phase of the FGLG project, which has linked work on forest rights and small forest

enterprise to a growing focus on biomass energy strategy and the contribution of forestry to pro-poor climate change mitigation, including Malawi's FGLG-supported preparations to participate in REDD+.

## Sustainable charcoal: policy options and political risks

During 2011 in particular, the FGLG operated under significant constraints because of the tense political and economic situation in Malawi. The group sustained regular and effective interaction with officials, but political leaders were unwilling to make progress on issues they considered contentious. This was especially true of proposals for legalising charcoal production and trade and making it sustainable, as advocated by the FGLG.

Charcoal harvesting is illegal even though it provides Malawi's main source of energy in rural areas and accounts for 42 per cent of urban household consumption, while overall production and trade constitutes the country's third largest industry by value. But exploring options for legalisation based on a shift to proper regulation and sustainable management would require sensitive debate with stakeholders across charcoal production, transportation, marketing, sales and consumption, with eventual decisions and action likely to prove sensitive and require significant experimentation. These were political risks that policymakers were not prepared to take.

Despite the barriers standing in the way of direct progress, however, the FGLG maintained its focus on the charcoal issue through its engagement with the emerging REDD+ process in the country, as charcoal production is a cause of deforestation.

Following the relative calming of the political environment, in 2012 the group organised press briefings to highlight the impact of rising electricity tariffs on charcoal use and developed and promoted case studies on renewable energy technologies. This work helped to ensure that biomass energy and sustainable charcoal production were included in the emerging national renewable energy strategy. In collaboration with the FGLGs in Mozambique and Tanzania, the Malawi team also studied the dynamics of the cross-border charcoal trade. A policy brief was also drafted on biofuels in Malawi and promoted through a national dissemination forum.

## Removing barriers and achieving progress on REDD+

During the project, the FGLG has contributed effectively to a national REDD+ process taking practical shape, its work helping to unblock previous barriers to progress. Indeed, despite discussions over several years in Malawi about how to initiate a REDD+ process, no national coordination mechanism had ever been established, with vested interests ensuring REDD+ initiatives had been confined to a single forest.

The FGLG led a stakeholder consultation process, including a national workshop on the monitoring, reporting and verification system required for claiming benefits under REDD+, and spread awareness of the national REDD+ challenge through the publication and dissemination of a policy briefing paper, participation in other national stakeholder workshops and media briefings on forestry and climate change. It also developed and put forward a specific proposal on 'readiness preparation' for REDD+.

Underlying the FGLG's research, advocacy and stakeholder engagement was a push for government and non-governmental institutions to improve their coordination and for a national task force to be created with a mandate to elaborate a national REDD+ strategy. In 2012, the government established such a body as well as a REDD+ multi-stakeholder governance mechanism with a coordination secretariat based in the Department of Forestry. In December 2012 the first ever national REDD+ consultation meeting was held with the FGLG playing a leading role in organising the event and follow-up meetings.

In 2013, the FGLG turned its attention to catalysing the drafting of Malawi's national REDD+ strategy, winning USAID support for a FGLG adviser to be based at the Department of Forestry. Following a series of stakeholder consultation events, a work plan was drafted and published as part of the Malawi REDD+ Readiness Programme. Work on the strategy was due to be completed by August 2014 as the country seeks membership of a multilateral REDD+ body in order to receive financing benefits from the scheme.

An earlier FGLG achievement was that the second phase of Malawi's Growth and Development Strategy for 2011-16 covered forestry more extensively than previously in its discussion of natural resources and environment. The FGLG team can claim credit for this greater prominence, as it had actively promoted four issues for consideration in the strategy, namely valuation of forest ecosystems, financing of the forest sector, small and medium forest enterprises, and institutional reform.

## Towards timber transparency

In Malawi, formal arrangements for transparency in the timber trade are non-existent or weakly enforced, despite the substantial volume of timber produced and exported, principally from plantations. In 2009, the FGLG commissioned a study from Training Support for Partners (TSP) and Mzuzu University on value chains, focusing on Chikwangawa Plantations in particular. Promotion of stakeholder discussion and media coverage of the findings, revealing non-transparent management and law enforcement problems, led the government temporarily to withdraw licences and suspend exports to Tanzania and to introduce measures to address some of the specific problems identified.

Through follow-up work the FGLG has succeeded in encouraging officials to examine licensing and other law enforcement issues. It has also stressed the need for greater support to be provided to producer groups to strengthen their organisation and bargaining power, including the formation and enhanced capacity of cooperatives. The team assessed timber value chains for newly established community forest enterprises and whether training, capacity building and advocacy are needed.

## Demonstrating how community forestry can work

In 2012, the FGLG worked to replicate and scale-up its work to show how clan-based management systems can provide the security of land and tree tenure needed to make community forestry work, building on the lessons and successes of its longstanding and continued engagement with communities in Ntanda hill in a traditional authority in Ntcheu district in central Malawi.

This pilot work has now been extended in the district to the Mpira dam and Dzonzi-Mvai forest reserve catchment area where the World Bank has recently launched its shire river basin management programme. In undertaking replication of clan-based management, FGLG members have worked with district representatives, water officials and communities in the new areas to assess the needs, interests and priorities of stakeholders in relation to the financial institution's basin management programme, with a view to ensuring that its governance arrangements on water, land and forest resources involve equitable benefits.

Meanwhile, the lessons of the experience in Ntanda hill were used in 2013 to develop local bylaws on the management of village forest areas, again creating the potential for wider replication. The FGLG also drew on its experience of supporting the introduction of energy-efficient stoves in Ntanda, using less fuelwood for more days, to develop a project promoting biomass energy in urban areas. This was part of the group's continued strong focus on renewable energy.

In 2013, the FGLG team also held discussions with the Department of Forestry on issues needing to be addressed as a new review of forestry policy gets underway, including a commitment to revive an annual national multi-stakeholder forum linked to the National Forestry Programme (NFP) to promote debate of policy. To generate wider support for this aim, the FGLG produced a study on the opportunities and constraints facing the body's resuscitated operation.

## Impact – providing a reference point for advice, support, ideas and change

Some of the main achievements and impacts of the FGLG in Malawi include the following:

- The group was increasingly recognised in the country as the reference point on forest governance issues. Members are regularly contacted by the Department of Forestry, as well as donors and NGOs. Such bodies have also taken up FGLG approaches and recommendations in their own work.
- Thanks to the catalytic role of the FGLG, national REDD+ strategy development is underway in Malawi. With an FGLG adviser formally invited to support the Forestry Department in charge of managing the process, the group is in a strong position to influence its future course.
- Several donor programmes such as the World Bank's shire river basin programme and the UNDP's sustainable land management project, as well as NGOs involved in livelihoods and environmental programmes, are now considering sustainable charcoal production options in their projects, based on the FGLG's recommendations. The Department of Forestry is also now more open to considering sustainable charcoal management in issuing forestry licences.
- FGLG support for community-based forest management in the Ntanda forest area has led to significant progress in reforestation, enabling families to boost income generation

through the sale of surplus firewood, the production of poles for building and investment in beekeeping.

- The Ntanda communities have agreed to form a cooperative and link up with other ventures to take full advantage of a honey-processing factors in Ntcheu district. This is part of a wider trend in the country seeing rising numbers of honey producers earning higher profits.
- The extension of FGLG support for clan-based forest management systems and bylaws to other parts of Ntcheu district has created the potential for scaling-up replication.

## Future plans – helping others to help themselves

The main priorities and specific ideas identified for the FGLG in Malawi to build on the progress, achievements and impact of the project include:

- Following up an initiative to establish an independent professional foresters association to take over the FGLG's work and advocate and lobby on forest governance.
- Continuing input into the planned review of national forestry policy, ensuring the proper integration of key issues such as sustainable charcoal in revised policy and the revival of the NFP's national forestry governance forum with effective stakeholder participation.
- Nurturing clear institutional coordination as Malawi completes REDD+ strategy and embarks on its implementation.
- Using available capacity after the project to support other organisations planning to sustain advocacy and capacity building hitherto led by the FGLG such as the Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE) and, in the case of community-based forest management piloted at Ntanda, the Ntcheu district Forestry Office and TSP.
- Continuing engagement with the Department of Forestry so that outputs produced by the FGLG over the past ten years continue to inform forestry governance policy debates and issues.
- Ensuring that IIED linkages with FGLG's members and local partners such as CDM, TSP, CURE and Mzuzu University are maintained so that they can benefit from IIED's technical support.
- Integrating the FGLG's approaches in donor projects, such as the EC-supported project to fund the development of the NFP's coordination unit, and following up an institutional assessment and financing strategy for the forestry sector produced by the group for the Department of Forestry.



*Meceburi Forest, Mozambique, May 2010. Aurelio Fuastino, 35, a local villager in primary forest 2kms from his home. © Mike Goldwater*

# Mozambique

## Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans

- Campaigning strengths enabling the FGLG in the country to build strong public awareness and pressure for change in forest governance, particularly on illegal logging, with changes achieved in timber licensing arrangements.
- Effective media and public debate work such as television appearances and outputs drawing on stakeholder events and community links, as well as engaging public education initiatives.
- Important contributions to the national REDD+ strategy planning process and publication of the first ever national report on monitoring of good environmental governance.
- Paralegals network established in several provinces to support communities' forest and land rights.
- Effective role in promoting links and synergies between forest and land security, livelihoods, rural development and climate change in public policy discourse, for example in work to promote sustainable charcoal production and trade.
- Contribution to reviving and promoting civil society dialogue at a sectoral and multi-sectoral level on forestry and natural resources.

## Progress<sup>6</sup> – media mobilisation, public pressure, community control?

Since 2011, the FGLG in Mozambique has been led by the Centro Terra Viva (CTV), a Mozambican non-governmental organisation with a strong profile and active role in environmental management. CTV belongs to Amigos da Floresta (Friends of the Forest), an alliance of NGOs and academic organisations created in 2007 in response to media exposure of government involvement in illegal harvesting and over-exploitation of forests. The revelations, unearthed in part as a result of FGLG-supported work, prompted high-level government resignations and, indirectly, the need for a shift in the institutional governance of the FGLG.

Leadership of the group, convened since its foundation earlier in the decade by representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture's forests and wildlife directorate and the University of Eduardo Mondlane (UEM), passed to members of the non-governmental Amigos da Floresta. Prior to current FGLG coordination by CTV, the previous convenor was based at two other members of Amigos da Floresta, firstly, Justiça Ambiental (the national environmental activist NGO) and

then, from 2009, during the first half of this project phase, the Centro de Integridade Pública, a transparency NGO.

Despite such shifts in identity and hosting arrangements for the convenor, as well as a context of frequent stakeholder policy differences among and between civil society and government, the FGLG has strived to keep an effective dialogue between different actors in the forest sector alive. Since 2009 in particular, a renewed effort has been made to broaden membership. Organisations specialising in rural development or involved in forestry and REDD+ strategy discussions joined, while the government restored engagement through participation of representatives from the national directorate on land and forests (DNTF) and the Ministry for Environmental Coordination (MICOA), which had become the official focal point for REDD+ strategy development. The current members of the FGLG are drawn from various NGOs and other civil society organisations, international NGOs such as WWF, government, academics and the private sector. More than half of regular participants at FGLG meetings are women.

## Tackling logging, changing laws, challenging government on China

During this project phase, the FGLG team has continued to concentrate on producing and disseminating public information and holding events to raise public awareness and debate of forests, forest governance and climate change. For instance, it has held public debates and roundtables on the perilous state of parts of the forest sector, highlighting the impact of illegal logging and the over-extraction of timber in Nampula and Cabo Delgado provinces in the north of the country.

Investigating, denouncing and seeking to address illegal logging and unsustainable commercial timber exploitation has remained a major priority for the FGLG, continuing the longstanding efforts of activist members to build public pressure for effective regulations and legislative changes. During the project, the FGLG contributed in 2010-12 to the achievement of changes in small-scale 'simple licence' concessions fuelling over-exploitation. Regulations were tightened to require preparation and approval of longer-term management plans before licenses could be granted, leading to a reduction in the number of licenses issued. Moves were also made to strengthen fines for violations and to explore revision of royalty payments, with the FGLG stressing the need to monitor the legally required handover of 20 per cent of receipts to local communities that arise through logging operations permitted on their land (and with their prior informed consent).

In addition, in 2013, CTV carried out WWF-commissioned research with Tanzania's FGLG on the illegal harvesting of timber and the cross-border trade in forestry and wildlife products in the Rovuma region straddling the northern Cabo Delgado and Niassa provinces.

The group also continued its strong engagement with surging Chinese private sector investment and trade in Mozambique's forest sector – 90 per cent of Mozambique's timber exports are destined for the Chinese market – building on the public impact of earlier advocacy reports in 2006 and 2009. In early 2013 the group seized the opportunity of an Environmental Investigation Agency report on illegal logging and regulation violations by Chinese operators to take part in a televised public debate on the matter on *Linha Aberta* (STV channel). In direct

response to the international learning event held as part of the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform held in China in early 2013 (see later 'International' section).

## Preparing for REDD+, exchanging with Brazil

Another major focus in recent FGLG work has been to support and influence the official national REDD+ strategy process. The group's engagement with the REDD+ technical working group was made possible through its involvement in partnerships linked to the emergence and implementation of the South-South REDD initiative between the Mozambican and Brazilian governments in 2009-12, aimed at creating the conditions for Mozambique to prepare for and take part in REDD+. Members of FGLG helped strengthen the REDD+ technical working group as it supported development of national REDD+ strategy and the readiness preparation plan for submission to the World Bank's forest carbon partnership facility.

During this process, the FGLG supported a series of public consultations across Mozambique on the national REDD+ strategy, which presented opportunities not only to collect vital data and insights but also to shine a spotlight on the daily challenges of forest governance and climate change issues at the grassroots. To this end, FGLG member took part in and organised specific discussion workshops, television presentations and newspaper articles.

FGLG members subsequently made contributions to the REDD+ legal framework as it underwent consultation with stakeholders. They stressed the crucial need for community rights, gender considerations and stakeholder participation, as well as support for technical, institutional and legal capacity-building – particularly at a community and local level – to be recognised in a ministerial decree for REDD+ project selection and approval. To develop their knowledge and expertise on REDD+ financing and securing community benefits, seven members of the FGLG – two from CTV, two from DNTF, two from MICOA and one from the UEM – went on an exchange visit to the Amazon region in Brazil organised by the Sustainable Amazon Foundation, learning in particular about the REDD-related payment mechanisms in the Bolsa Floresta programme.

Moreover, to help boost policymaker awareness and capacity on forestry governance and climate change, as well as its gender implications, members of the FGLG collaborated to provide training on REDD+ for members of Parliament belonging to the National Assembly's commission for social issues and gender. Similar seminars, in coordination with the Superior Institute for Administration (ISAP), were also held for national directors of key ministries.

During the project a variety of FGLG initiatives also took place to promote sustainable forest management, with research, advocacy and training materials advocating positive changes in forest governance complemented by practical support for community-focused initiatives.

## Charcoal, communication and landing the law on community-based forestry

In work on legitimate forest products, for example, CTV, the FGLG convener, coordinated a research study in 2011 involving the UEM's faculty of agronomy and engineering on options for sustainable charcoal production and trade, which benefited from an exchange visit to neighbouring Malawi to draw on similar FGLG work being carried out there.

The study noted that solutions for the environmental problems of charcoal need to involve consideration of the employment and income-generation challenges facing rural producers. The latter earned little profit, which meant that in responding to rising charcoal demand, mainly in urban areas, they were ignoring regulations and increasing deforestation. In response, the study recommended fuel-efficient technologies, decentralisation to put local authorities in a stronger position to support more sustainable forest use, land tenure reforms and a ban on unsustainable firewood and charcoal use by bakeries and restaurants.

The FGLG also conducted studies in 2011 to document the lessons of community-based natural resource management initiatives in southern Mozambique, as part of its participation and support for the international Growing Forest Partnerships (GFP) programme in the country in 2011-13. The study highlighted the strategic importance of forest conservation being linked to progress in strengthening livelihood opportunities, with technical support and stronger incentives needed for community enterprise development and investment alongside state support for beneficial partnerships with the private sector.

Under the GFP, the FGLG also produced a documentary in 2011 on the daily lives of communities in Mecubúri and Moribane forest reserves (in the northern Nampula and central Manica provinces, respectively), which explored the relationship between people and resources and highlighted the damaging impact of timber exploitation and the introduction of banana plantations.

The documentary, launched at the Mozambican Rural Observatory, an FGLG member, was broadcast on national television channels (TVM and TIM) and distributed to partners, including the government and communities in the districts where recordings took place. In raising public awareness, the documentary stressed the importance of supporting participatory community monitoring for improving forest administration and management and highlighted the need to address gaps in land laws.

To enhance practical support for communities in Mecubúri and Moribane, the FGLG won support from a Food and Agriculture Organization initiative to produce a training manual and guide on good forest conservation practices and communities' legal rights and obligations, and ran complementary training events to promote adoption and reinforcement of the knowledge and expertise acquired.

During 2012, FGLG members supported the creation of a national paralegal network coordinated by the Legal Assistance Centre (GAAJ), which is made up of members of communities and organisations that have attended paralegal training courses. The network has major potential for empowering communities by providing information and supporting action on their natural resource rights. In 2013, refresher courses were organised to strengthen the role of its members in improving access to justice on issues land demarcation, community consultation and compensation.

The group also helped two small forest companies from communities in Maputo and Manica to participate in the Centre for Art Studies and Development crafts fair in December 2012. This was part of continued practical support for small craft producer groups through exchange

visits and attendance of annual trade fairs, aimed at identifying income-generating products contributing to sustainable natural resource management and matching them with potential markets.

The FGLG has made community-based forest management – on which it held two major conferences in 2011, one a regional event in Gaza province, the other a national gathering in Maputo, the capital – part of its drive to promote stronger learning on environmental policy and practice on wider public debate and public policy platforms. It contributed, for example, to the creation of a forest database and library on *Zambézia Online*, and in 2012, CTV published the first ever national report on monitoring of good environmental governance. Meanwhile, FGLG members ran environmental education training sessions for members of parliament at the Assembly of the Republic, covering subjects ranging from environmental indicators to the challenges of extractive industries.

## From reviving forums to innovative media methods

Following a long period in which the previously active National Forest Forum had been moribund, in November 2012 the FGLG helped to organise a Civil Society Forest Dialogue – the first of its kind. Representatives of organisations working on land, forest and livelihood issues attended from all provinces. In 2013, coordination meetings were due to hold a further dialogue, with efforts eventually leading to the February 2014 launch of a civil society multi-sectoral platform for the management of natural resources attended by 50 organisations from around the country. For its part, the FGLG has established an internal communications network in order to strengthen the sharing of reports and information from national and international events.

A strength of the FGLG in Mozambique has been its media work and use of popular methods to raise public awareness such as theatre, cartoons and music. A book of stories for children has been produced and FGLG members had environmental stories and advice columns published in newspapers. Community awareness training sessions were also held, for example in Maputo's Matutuine district, involving schools and local authorities in discussions about sustainable natural resource use.

## Impact – from campaigning clout to cohesive pursuit of change?

FGLG work in Mozambique was the focus of an October 2013 field visit forming part of the research involved in evaluation of IIED's international FGLG project. The 2014 report of the project evaluator concluded that, while members of the FGLG in the country had often been successful in raising public awareness on account of their individual strengths in media, advocacy and campaigning work, this had largely not been translated into significant shifts in forest governance, despite some achievements.

The report suggested that one significant barrier to greater success had been the frequent changes in composition and leadership of the group. This had not only affected group identity

– it came to be known as Amigos da Floresta – but also the impetus of its multi-stakeholder approach and its ability to engage government, despite efforts to broaden membership and reach out to officials. An apparent perception in some government quarters was that the group was an urban-based NGO initiative lacking proper grassroots legitimacy. The future is likely to lie with the new Civil Society Alliance and thematic platforms that have emerged out of collaboration between FGLG members and WWF. That said, evaluation and country reports indicate that several important achievements have been registered by the FGLG in the country. These include:

- FGLG members' investigation and denouncement of illegal logging and land practices has frequently built strong public awareness and pressure for change in forest governance.
- The FGLG has contributed to official agreement of some important changes, for example revisions of the 'simple licence' regime to make it more demanding in terms of forest sustainability, thus creating potential for such progress to translate into community benefits.
- The group has been effective in promoting stronger conceptual links and synergies between forest and land security issues, livelihoods, rural development and climate change in public policy discourse, for example in its work on charcoal.
- The group has made an important contribution to the national REDD+ strategy process as well as reviving civil society dialogue at a sectoral and multi-sectoral level on forestry and natural resources.

## Future plans – a community agenda on green growth and trade with China

The main priorities and specific ideas identified for the FGLG in Mozambique to build on the progress, achievements and impact of the project include:

- Continued involvement in the REDD+ readiness work plan to be funded by the World Bank's forest carbon partnership facility and in work to test REDD+ options in the Beira corridor.
- Ensuring that sustainable forest management focused on the needs of the environment and interests of the rural poor and small enterprise development are at the heart of the government's agenda for green growth, based on the proposal of new models for locally controlled forestry.
- Using future participation in the emerging China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform to engage more deeply with Chinese traders and Mozambican operators and facilitate exchange of insights and best practices.
- Helping to forge a common civil society agenda in the wake of the recent civil society dialogue and multi-sectoral platform meetings, including to boost the effectiveness of joint input into the National Forum on Forests consultations and engagement with parliamentary representatives.

# South Africa

## Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans

- A system of core and call-in members has successfully combined strategic focus and agile flexibility, with strong work to facilitate community input and feedback on forestry policy and practice.
- Successful encouragement of ministries to set up financing mechanisms and release funding for SMFE initiatives and programmes, boosting the 'bankability' of projects and the potential for stronger income generation and job creation.
- Rigorous scrutiny of legislative proposals on land reform threatening the sustainability of SMFEs, linking land rights with the need to empower communities through stronger capacity-building support for enterprise management to make land distribution work in practice.
- Effective support for SFMEs to organise and gain voice and influence, leading to official recognition and registration and the set up of business support programmes geared to their needs.
- Facilitation of successful SMFE influence over timber codes of practice on contracts between smaller producers and large company schemes.
- Linking promotion of sustainable forest management with wider strategies for agriculture and rural development.

## Progress<sup>7</sup> – media mobilisation, public pressure, community control?

The FGLG in South Africa is convened by a representative of Forestry South Africa, a leading forestry body grouping corporate, commercial and emerging smaller-scale producers of timber. The group has sought to combine strategic focus with flexible and agile operation through a system of core and call-in members. Members are drawn from state, civil society, forest enterprises and industry bodies but take part in its work on an individual professional basis.

The approach has often been to stimulate debate and share learning internally and externally on forest governance rather than promote common positions agreed through a more formal multi-stakeholder process.

With the aim of improving governance conditions to create an enabling environment boosting

benefits for small forest enterprise, the group has organised learning sessions and business events to promote dialogue between regional and national government, small forestry enterprise, the larger-scale private sector and support agencies, providing an opportunity for interaction that might not exist in the absence of the FGLG.

The group has proved particularly useful in sharing lessons between provinces and linking provincial planning with national initiatives. A strength in the work has been its rigour in structuring and reporting back on small forest enterprise input into decision-making, as well as linking information sharing sessions to moments when FGLG-supported organisations are organising their own events with communities or holding meetings with local and traditional council officials.

This informal but structured approach has enabled the FGLG to register several important achievements.

## Towards solid and strategic financing of small forestry enterprises

For example, targeted evidence and advocacy on strengthening support for small and medium forest enterprises (SMFEs) was pivotal in mobilising US \$650,000 from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to cover land-use planning for 96 community forestry projects. The funding, which would not have been made available in the absence of FGLG support, enabled an environmental impact assessment process to take place so that communities could acquire water licences and undertake the afforestation of 13,000 hectares of land.

They are now in a position not only to develop plantations to earn revenue but also to provide opportunities for the unemployed in their communities, with the potential creation of an estimated 260 jobs.

A wider development of considerable significance has been announcement by the DAFF minister that an overall SMFE support programme is to be established, signalling an end to ad hoc support mechanisms. In support of such developments, FGLG helped to encourage the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) to establish an additional US \$3 million forestry development grant facility aiding the development of bankable community forestry projects. The IDC has supported the development of community forestry projects covering 6,500 hectares of land as part of the DTI's industrial policy action plan.

## From rural realities to making land reform work in practice

The link between land reform and community forest enterprise development has been an important issue of FGLG concern. During an official review of land reform in 2011, it criticised the proposals of a government Green Paper as too complex, and presented a policy brief on land rights to the Department of Land Affairs. Some of the issues highlighted were subsequently recognised in the review and led to a significant improvement in stakeholder input. Through its links with networks, the group also contributed to the commission discussing proposals for a Land Rights Management Board and put forward recommendations on land tenure security policy and eviction policy.

In 2013, the FGLG monitored progress in the land reform policy review and targeted submissions at policymakers during its finalisation, making use of its representation on four of six commissions of the national agricultural reference group set up for the Green Paper review. The group also provided input to the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform on its Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Bill published in May 2013. It voiced concern about the risks of the proposed legislation to sustainable smaller-scale forest enterprise if FGLG recommendations – such as the need to settle unresolved land claims and boost support for producer capacity – were not taken on board.

The need for stronger policy measures and capacity-building programmes to maximise support for SMFE business has continued to be a major priority in the FGLG's advocacy. Indeed, with about 60 per cent of forest plantation land at some stage of being returned to communities, support for their ability to manage land as it is distributed could not be more urgent or essential. In its absence, serious dangers face the sustainability of forestry. The FGLG made it its business to work closely with partners to ensure that the steady stream of legislative submissions and amendments presented were rigorously scrutinised before presentation to parliament for full debate.

## Organising producers and getting their voices heard

In terms of the FGLG's own support for producers, a significant achievement has been the effectiveness of its initiatives to help SMFEs to organise in district and provincial structures, with a view to boosting their efficiency, market position and organisational representation and influence. Particular progress was made in KwaZulu Natal and Limpopo where growers from the two provinces are now represented on the FSA's executive committee and also have a voice in other leading forums such as the Industry Business Development Forum, the Licensing Assessment Advisory Committee, the Forestry Stakeholders' Forums and the Forest Sector Charter Council.

The FGLG has helped the producers to forge SMFE development partnerships, and this has prompted the DTI's small enterprise development agency to register all smaller-scale timber growers in KwaZulu Natal and Limpopo as officially recognised business entities. Most of the community-based projects have registered as cooperatives and received training in business management.

Another FGLG success was the impact of four events held with SMFEs to inform the drafting of emerging timber grower codes of good practice (ETG CoGP), a key aspect of implementation of the Forest Sector (Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment) Charter. Contributions from the events meant that the codes, as finally approved by the Forest Sector Charter Council, would be wider in scope. They would not only 'direct and control' contracts between companies and 'emerging growers' to ensure transparency in timber prices paid to producers and in the costing of company support services, but refer also to expected standards for the negotiation and content of contracts to be transparent and fair.

## Climate change and sustainable trade

In 2013, the group set up a task force with an identified specialist to champion NTFP-based small enterprises. It also contributed inputs to the development of a forest sector climate change response strategy, stressing the importance of maximising its pro-poor benefits.

To consolidate, share and promote the lessons of its work in this area, the FGLG drafted a publication on models for community benefit sharing in forest enterprise. This drew on analysis of experiences in South Africa with land restitution, state asset restructuring, SMFE schemes and the Forest Sector Charter. A workshop was planned to enrich the report before its finalisation and dissemination within the international FGLG network. The group also produced a short film on the need for best practices in supporting SMFEs to develop appropriate systems for sustainable forest management to be part of a conceptually broader land use approach.

Regionally, the FGLG played a prominent role in helping to develop a Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) programme for the Southern African Development Community region, including a concept proposal on FLEGT from the SADC Timber Association. The group convened a multi-stakeholder event to consider the draft programme, in support of efforts by South Africa's DAFF to gauge stakeholder opinion in formulating the government's position. In 2013 it also contributed to the work of the SADC Timber Association task team, submitting proposals on the drafting of a constitution to properly operationalise the body.

## Impact – practical organisation, policy influence and strategic support

The main achievements and impacts of the FGLG in South Africa include:

- Initiation of a considerable shift in government thinking and approach, which has come to welcome and value the input of organised forestry groups in policy development.
- The successful organisation of small growers into functioning district and provincial structures in KwaZulu Natal and Limpopo and establishment of the FSA's Industry Business Development Forum. SMFEs and community forest projects are gaining greater official recognition – as marked by inclusion of SMFE support programmes in the growth and development strategies of the two provinces – and attracting training support and capital funding.
- Nurturing the emergence and consideration of longer-term mechanisms for capital funding for SFMEs, with greater funds being released by DAFF and DTI. For example, this has included funding for environment impact assessment to support 27 applications for water licences in the Eastern Cape province.
- Strengthened integration of forest governance proposals with land reform policy, stronger small enterprise support and community empowerment.
- Positive influence in final approval of codes of good practice on forestry company contracts and negotiation with emerging timber growers.

## Future plans – small forest enterprise in a wider strategy for rural justice

The main priorities and specific ideas identified by the FGLG in South Africa to build on the progress, achievements and impact of the project include:

- Further supporting the scaling-up of support for SMFEs in South Africa's forestry development strategy, building on the emergence of a dedicated support programme for SMFEs.
- Continued support and engagement of the Industry Business Development Forum, including feeding in to its work plan under the FSA and its eventual transfer to the DAFF as the overarching institution governing its indefinite operation.
- Stepping up support for the organisation of smaller producers in the Eastern Cape, as the province with most afforestation potential, and Mpumalanga province.
- Securing funding to strengthen further development and promotion of the FGLG's conceptual approach, which avoids treating forestry as a discrete sector. With South Africa's communal rural structure and mixed range of activities (rather than monoculture), further work is needed to drive recognition of sustainable forest management as an essential strand of wider strategies for agriculture and rural development focused on social justice and the needs and interests of the rural poor. Future work would concentrate on support for SMFEs in the context of the strategic links between forestry, wildlife, grasslands and agriculture.

# Tanzania

## Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans

- Facilitation of stronger government trust in consulting non-official stakeholders in forest governance processes and initiatives.
- REDD+ pilot projects governance group formed, drawing on FGLG members' experiences, with effective lesson-learning and joint statements helping to shape national strategy.
- Positive engagement with government in the *Mama Misitu* Campaign to curb illegal logging and deforestation, drawing on the findings of influential research and boosting public awareness and pressure for change through media work, including the broadcasting of documentaries.
- Holding of public hearing on forest governance challenges, with community testimonies shaping the debate and strengthening local demand for change, and the event also leading to emerging plans to strengthen engagement of the private sector as a strategic actor.
- Incipient progress made in facilitating government bilateral agreements with neighbouring Mozambique and Kenya to tackle cross-border problems in the timber trade.

## Progress<sup>8</sup> – media campaigning and constructive government engagement

The FGLG in Tanzania is convened by the Tanzania Forest Working Group (TFWG) of the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) with the aim of creating a space for stronger policy dialogue, review, lesson learning and advocacy, as well as interaction with wider development stakeholders and the media as a crucial shaper of public and political opinion. The group has linked TFWG members and stakeholders with the government – for example the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) – thanks to the trust and positive working relationships that have been built up over time.

Much of the recent work of FGLG has been linked to the *Mama Misitu* ('Mother Forests') Campaign (MMC) – a TFWG communication and advocacy campaign to address the illegal timber trade – and tracking REDD+ pilot projects. This combination has been crucially relevant to the livelihoods of rural communities in that it deals with the impact of timber harvesting and important forest governance issues such as forest access, land tenure, benefit sharing and safeguards.

## Community participation and keeping up campaign momentum

Launched in 2008, the MMC stemmed from a ground-breaking 2007 report by Milledge and others, 'Forestry, Governance and National Development: Lessons Learnt from a Logging Boom in Southern Tanzania', published by the civil society organisation TRAFFIC, with the support of the government's Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and the Development Partners' Group (DPG) of international donors. The report's revelations of corruption and major revenue loss involving government officials and national and international private interests sparked significant media interest and public controversy. They also stressed that improvements in natural resource governance should be a critical priority in bettering rural livelihoods and achieving equitable development.

A key aim for the FGLG has been to help sustain this public momentum. In early 2013, in collaboration with the MMC, the group held a public hearing on forest governance, focusing on issues raised by testimonies from community representatives. The event brought together district authorities and community participants from the MMC-implementing districts of Kisarawi and Kibaha in Pwani region, as well as NGO and international donor partners, who took part in a debate of the testimonies facilitated by an expert panel. This included officials (from the TFS, law enforcement agencies and a district commissioner), a representative of the private sector and the environment chair of the DPG. A documentary of the event is available on YouTube and has been used in continued advocacy, alongside a briefing on the event's outcomes.

## Tricks of the trade: towards cross-border action on illegal timber

In contributing to the MMC, the FGLG has also made the dissemination and communication of research on the cross-border timber trade an important feature of its work and used the findings to engage policymakers in both Tanzania and neighbouring Mozambique and Kenya.

In late 2013, the FGLG launched a video documentary on timber movement across the Ruvuma River and border posts between Tanzania and Mozambique. Produced with the TNRF's film unit, the media output was based on field research by TRAFFIC Tanzania, which suggested that substantial quantities of illegal timber were moving across the border, including illegally harvested timber from Tanzania crossing into Mozambique and re-entering Tanzania with spurious proof of Mozambican origin.

Plans were made to share the documentary in early 2014 with government departments in Tanzania and Mozambique before wider public broadcasting on national television. The aim was to build incentives and pressure for the two governments to honour in practice joint commitments to tighten national border procedures, introduce stronger border collaboration systems and respectively support participatory forest management in order to protect forest resources in border districts. To such ends, FGLG members had already held consultation meetings with governments in Maputo in 2012 and Dar es Salaam in 2013 on the development, agreement and operationalisation of a memorandum of understanding.

Previously, the FGLG had similarly provided support for dissemination in relation to another cross-border study, in this case a report by TNRF and the East Africa Wildlife Society looking

at the timber trade between Tanzania and Kenya. Workshops and the targeting of findings to national ministries, regional and district offices, border posts and the Eastern African Community again led to official discussion of a possible joint agreement to deal with the issues highlighted. They included the relatively high proportion of fresh timber exported rather than dry timber required by export regulations.

To raise further public awareness of both sets of cross-border findings, the FGLG organised a breakfast debate with the media and members of the DPG in Dar es Salaam in both 2012 and 2013, with media coverage again throwing a spotlight on the need for more effective and equitable forest governance.

Stressing the crucial importance of participatory forest management for tackling deforestation has also been central to the FGLG's work in relation to the REDD+ process. Using the experiences of monitoring and sharing lessons across nine pilot REDD+ projects, group members explored and promoted proposals for equitable benefit sharing under the scheme.

## Promoting community participation and regional agreement on REDD+

Alongside a briefing paper and a technical report drawing on 2012 stakeholder forums, the group produced a documentary on the subject, drawing attention to the need for a fair system for allocating resources both at a local-national level and within communities, as well as for capacity building to enable communities, local governments and national institutions to design and implement community-focused programmes effectively, with benefits reaching vulnerable groups. Footage was gathered in four areas, with FGLG, technical support particularly provided in Kondo and Shinyanga. The documentary was broadcast on Tanzanian television and radio.

In turn, in 2012 the FGLG fed the recommendations of such work into the second draft of Tanzania's national REDD+ strategy, taking advantage of the presence of several of its members in REDD+ task forces. In doing so, it organised an email consultation to facilitate stakeholder feedback from across different REDD+ projects, thus providing joint input that might not have been possible without its support. Lesson-learning from REDD+ experiences was also built into the agenda of the consultation meetings held in 2012 and 2013 between FGLG members and the government representatives from Mozambique and Tanzania aimed at bilateral agreement on cross-border approaches to forest governance.

The group has also continued to hold consultation and feedback meetings with stakeholders in relation to Tanzania's participation in international climate change negotiations. In 2013, for example, it facilitated a discussion to reflect on the outcomes of the COP18 meeting in Doha in late 2012 and then worked to include such perspectives in a national REDD+ coordination meeting planning for the COP19 conference due to be held in Warsaw. Among the recommendations was the need for official negotiators to receive greater technical and political support and for the lessons from pilot projects to be discussed at the international level.

## Impact – a platform for community participation and official action

Some of the main achievements and impacts of the FGLG in Tanzania include the following:

- A significant increase in government trust in involving non-official stakeholders, as shown by invitations for FGLG members to contribute actively to government meetings, easier access to official information on budgets and forestry, NGO membership of REDD+ technical working groups and joint meetings with government in preparation for international climate change talks, for example.
- Constructive engagement with government in relation to the *Mama Misitu* Campaign, with progress in official ownership and commitment aided by the fact that the original report that led to the MMC's launch had been commissioned and endorsed by the government.
- A sense among communities providing testimonies to the 2013 public hearing on forest governance that they are in a stronger position to question government officials on timber legality and benefit-sharing issues, have their grievances heard and demand accountability.
- Promises by the Tanzanian and Kenyan governments to enforce or tighten border controls on illegal timber exports and imports, with some signs of incipient action being taken such as the stationing of staff on border posts.
- Increased awareness and ownership of REDD+ processes by communities and partners involved in REDD+ pilot projects.

## Future plans – involving the private sector in changing forest governance

The main priorities and specific ideas identified for the FGLG in Tanzania to build on the progress, achievements and impact of the project include:

- Building on the involvement of the private sector in the public hearing on forest governance to support initiatives to engage this stakeholder on a more strategic basis, overcoming past difficulties such as the sensitivity of openly discussing problems. Ideas include support for MMC plans for a private sector platform starting at district level and development of a timber trade legality checklist, so as to promote the more active involvement of the private sector in the campaign.
- Considering best approaches to assessing forest governance progress in the wake of developments since 2007, with possible plans for a 'state of forest governance in Tanzania' report.
- Continuing to exploit the impact and potential of communication outputs such as video documentaries to raise public debate and maximise the impact of advocacy in support of improvements in forest governance.
- Helping to further boost civil society representation in key processes relevant to forest

governance such as REDD+. Interaction between civil society and the national REDD+ task force has been strengthened, as reflected by government commitment to include civil society inputs in national REDD+ strategy discussions, but further progress is needed. Civil society representation on the REDD+ task Force, for example, is in a non-voting capacity.

- Extending the FGLG's role in convening the REDD+ pilot projects governance group to involve greater support for assessing change and mapping outcomes in project sites and a stronger focus on media engagement and advocacy.
- Capitalising on the newly created China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform to strengthen the FGLG's engagement with the Tanzania Forest Service on trade with China, including through greater TFS support for, and involvement in, the MMC.



Forest Governance Learning Group, December 2010, Mozambique. Preparing a traditional charcoal kiln. © IIED

# Uganda

## Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans

- Meeting with the country's president as the climax of a campaign to stop the conversion of forest land to sugar plantations.
- FGLG's evidence-based advocacy contributing to changes in the government's approach and also seen as a model component of environmental and natural resource campaigning.
- FGLG research, combined with national stakeholder events, prompting a timber harvesting ban and reviews of concessions and regulations.
- A range of public dialogues and stakeholder consultations events building momentum for the regular production of a citizen-focused state-of-forest-governance report.
- NGOs networked and led at international climate conferences by the FGLG.
- Leadership of proposals on conflict management and stakeholder participation in national REDD+ strategy.

## Progress<sup>9</sup> – proposing alternatives for government action

The FGLG in Uganda is convened by Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), an independent public policy research and advocacy think tank registered in Uganda with operations in the Eastern Africa. Effective stakeholder outreach and engagement has meant that composition of the group steadily widened to 41 members in 2013, drawn from NGOs and wider civil society organisations concerned with the environment, forest governance and natural resources management, academia, the media, various private sector forestry bodies, parliament, the Ministry of Water and Environment and its Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD), as well as other public bodies relevant to forestry such as National Forestry Authority (NFA), the District Forestry Services (DFS) and the National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA). The members, including a presidential adviser on the environment and natural resources, take part in the work of the FGLG on an individual rather than institutional basis.

Partnership and networking – nationally and regionally – has been a distinct feature of the FGLG's operation. As well as involvement in the IIED-led Poverty and Conservation Learning Group, the FGLG is a member of the Uganda Forest Working Group as well as the Environment and Natural Resources Network for Civil Societies in the ENR sector (ENR-CSO) where

ACODE, on behalf of the group, leads the thematic working group on governance. The FGLG has also consolidated its partnerships with the South African Institute for International Affairs and the Governance of Africa's Resources Network and has organised a learning event on resource governance with them both.

## Using evidence to help save Mabira and change forest land allocation

In terms of national advocacy for better forest governance, one of the major strengths of the FGLG has been its evidence-based approach. This was powerfully demonstrated by the success of the group in working with civil society to organise the 'Save Mabira Crusade', in response to the government's 2011 revival of its 2006 'degazettement' plans to allocate 7,100 hectares of Mabira Central Forest Reserve to the Sugar Corporation of Uganda for sugar plantations and increased sugar production. The group was able to demonstrate that the value of conserving the forest was greater than converting it to sugar production. The sugar plans had faced stiff public resistance – including major civil unrest – but it would appear that the FGLG made a plausible contribution to a change in the government's position.

The climax of the campaign was a civil society meeting with President Museveni in which findings on the illegality of the land allocation process and the policy alternatives for dealing with national sugar shortages were discussed. The meeting led to a presidential promise to make an informed decision based on study of the evidence. Degazettement was halted and allocations of forest land have taken a different course, with the government following the law and providing new areas to compensate for lost forest reserves.

During this campaigning process the FGLG built synergies with other groups such as Care International and IUCN, with joint initiatives successfully lifting the profile of forest governance issues and highlighting the need for further progress in addressing problems.

For example, ACODE worked in partnership with Care International to organise a FGLG national symposium on forest governance, 'A Decade of Forestry Reforms in Uganda – Reflecting on Successes and Challenges'. Building on the findings of a 2009 study on illegalities and non-compliance with regulation in the forestry sector – this had prompted a government investigation and led to the dismissal of the NFA's chief executive and the appointment of a new minister of water and the environment – the event not only provided a much-needed platform for stakeholder dialogue on forest governance but also led to the revival of stalling official discussions on forest regulations aimed at operationalising the 2003 National Forestry and Tree-Planting Act. The FGLG steered a task force to comment on draft regulations and its proposals were adopted by the Ministry of Water and Environment's FSSD before the regulations' submission to Uganda's solicitor-general for finalisation. Final approval was still due at the time of writing, in the context of a new National Forest Action Plan involving a shift from a focus on 'poverty eradication' to a stronger emphasis on 'enterprise'.

Another outcome was the announcement of a ban on timber harvesting and a review of concession processes by the minister of water and environment in March 2012, drawing further attention to the seriousness of forest resource depletion. The ban was lifted later in 2012

when proposals for establishment of a regulatory unit and verification checks for the issuance of new licenses were announced, with the FGLG monitoring the progress and results of such developments.

In another example of evolving partnership, WWF resourcing enabled the FGLG to sustain its monitoring of illegal logging and timber, with the group contributing to and drawing on WWF's research and advocacy on the illegal timber trade. The FGLG participated in a CARE and WWF-led workshop in February 2013 and used its broad membership to maximise the dissemination of the event's outputs.

## Benchmarks on the state of forest governance and necessary reforms

In March 2013, an FGLG workshop was also held to share and update members' knowledge of the current status of forest governance and to test a tool for data collection. Such information gathering has been a vital part of preparing a citizen-focused report on the state of forest governance in Uganda. This has involved a process of citizen participation and stakeholder engagement, with consultative workshops held and expert technical advice sought to agree indicators to guide analysis and assess findings. A draft has been produced, involving analysis of key issues against five pillars of good forest governance with specific indicators and scorecards, as well as recommendations for reforms and changes. The report will be finalised after further field work and consultation.

In 2013, the FGLG also drafted a study on community access to land in central forest reserves (CFRs), examining whether community rights, as provided for in law, are respected and complied with on the ground. Focus group discussions were held with households in Mubuku CFR, Kasese district and Nsube CFR, Jinja district, revealing irregularities in licensing and communities' lack of awareness of their rights. The group has also been planning a study of the implementation of collaborative forest management agreements, recognised in the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, with a view to strengthening arguments in favour of engaging communities and ensuring community benefits in forest management.

## Consolidating partnerships and shaping REDD+

To optimise the impact of its forestry governance work, the FGLG has worked to develop and consolidate relations and partnerships, both with the Ministry of Water and Environment and public institutions. For example, in 2013, the group gave a presentation to the National Forest Authority and the Uganda parliamentary forum on the Millennium Development Goals in the light of their planned implementation of a memorandum of understanding on the role of forestry. On behalf of the group, ACODE also hosted a meeting of the environment and natural resource governance working group set up by the Ministry of Water and Environment in the wake of the FGLG's national symposium and contributed to the finalisation of the new body's action plan.

The FGLG has also made engagement with Uganda's REDD+ process an important feature of its efforts to address deforestation and improve forest governance to the benefit of poor communities. It provided analysis and critical input during the development and 2011 submission

of Uganda's REDD readiness preparation proposal to the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. This included helping to shape a conflict and grievance management plan, and an awareness and communications strategy to ensure stakeholder participation in national REDD+ strategy – both requirements for multilateral support – in partnership with IUCN and Tree Talk.

The group also worked closely with the ENR-CSO network to press the government to formulate a clear climate change policy and an implementation strategy for climate change mitigation and adaptation, based on a 2011 position paper and the drafting of recommendations in 2012 highlighting the need for interventions focused on priority sectors. With Uganda now developing nationally appropriate mitigation actions, ACODE, on behalf of the FGLG, has worked with networks to identify and promote pro-poor elements, including through a climate change capacity building and advocacy workshop in 2013.

Having co-hosted civil society preparatory workshops and as a member of the Climate Action Network, the FGLG also led Uganda's civil society delegation to the COP17 and COP18 climate change conferences held in 2011 and 2012 in Durban and Doha respectively. The FGLG-led civil society group provided inputs, using a position paper on innovative financial mechanisms and other climate change issues for the Ministry of Water and Environment to help inform the Ugandan government's position on both occasions.

## Impact – helping to hold government to account

The main achievements and impacts of the FGLG in Uganda include:

- Government agreement to halt the allocation of major tracts of the Mabira Central Forest Reserve to sugar production, following evidence-based advocacy by the FGLG that led in turn to better government legal compliance and compensation arrangements in later forest land allocation cases.
- Government investigation and dismissal of officials involved in forestry illegalities, with an FGLG-organised national symposium also resuscitating official discussions on forest regulations, which have taken on board proposals from the group.
- Imposition of a temporary government ban on timber harvesting and launch of a review of timber concessions and the timber concession process, following the FGLG national symposium.
- FGLG proposals on grievance mechanisms and stakeholder participation taken on board in Uganda's proposals for REDD+ strategy and multilateral financing.

## Future plans – creating the basis for a citizen agenda on forest governance

The main priorities and specific ideas identified for the FGLG in Uganda to build on the progress, achievements and impact of the project include:

- Continuing biennial production of a citizen-focused state of forest governance in Uganda report as the basis for ongoing advocacy strategy.
- Exploiting the FGLG's position on the forestry regulations task force to continue to monitor and push for improvement in Forestry Sector Support Department regulations.
- Stepping up work to engage with Uganda's current development of forest product certification standards.
- Continued engagement of relevant stakeholders to help shape the finalisation and approval of Uganda's REDD+ strategy and monitor its eventual implementation.
- Boosting fundraising to sustain the impetus of FGLG advocacy, building on the seed money already secured from Care International to support the continued holding of quarterly group meetings.



Meceburi Forest, Mozambique, May 2010: Farm labourers working to clear land for planting crops. © Mike Goldwater

# Vietnam

## Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans

- Well-developed local community forestry expertise increasingly linked with the pursuit of influence on the country's emerging national policy framework on community forest management.
- Raised government awareness of forest governance and CFM issues and the need to improve the forest land allocation process based on pilot experiences.
- More productive engagement between communities involved in forestry and government officials.
- Better stakeholder understanding of governance and participation as concepts still relatively new in Vietnam.
- Strong engagement with REDD+, including a training of trainers initiative to boost grassroots understanding and the formulation of proposals on social safeguards.
- Exploration of smallholder timber legality for Vietnam's Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU under FLEGT.
- Progress in leveraging partnerships and providing a bridge for dialogue, with the FGLG increasingly recognised and called on to provide support.

## Progress<sup>10</sup> – piloting change with communities in a different policy climate

The FGLG in Vietnam, convened by the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for the Asia and Pacific (RECOFTC), brings together forestry experts and agricultural economists from government departments and agencies and academic institutions, as well as forestry practitioners. They take part in the group on an individual basis, based on their professional experience and their shared commitment to strengthening forest governance to the benefit of forest people.

This motivation is highly relevant in a context in which locally controlled forestry is increasingly popular – local households and village collectives manage around 28 per cent of the country's forest area – and in view of the fact that community forest management (CFM) has been identified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) as a priority in its sectoral strategy on forestry. Though state forest enterprises have been losing their dominance since the 1990s, the challenges of nurturing a transition to new forms of governance have had to deal with this legacy of state ownership and planning.

It is in this context that the impact of the FGLG's work must be understood, as conceptual building blocks and practical expertise, geared to a changing policy environment, have needed to be put in place before major changes in forest governance benefiting people can be achieved.

## Where the land lies: promoting a shift from legal recognition to stronger allocation

Formal legal recognition of community land tenure and forest land tenure over the last decade have provided a foundation for the process of forest land allocation (FLA). Currently Vietnam is implementing a CFM pilot project in nine provinces, with the aim of building capacity at all levels and developing a policy framework for CFM implementation nationwide.

A priority for Vietnam's FGLG team over the last five years has thus been to raise the awareness and win the support of officials to extend FLA to communities hitherto unable to secure forest rights. In three provinces (Bac Kan in the north, Thua Thien Hue in central Vietnam and Dak Lak in the south), the FGLG conducted assessments and produced reports with recommendations on how forest tenure and benefit sharing arrangements could be improved. The group then used the field-based findings in the provincial reports to promote stakeholder dialogue, with local workshops and small group meetings held to sensitise local authorities on the capacity of local people to manage their own forests and win their backing for FLA. To boost and extend the pursuit of such aims, the group also organised study tours to model CFM sites, including in five other provinces (Lang Son, Cao Bang, Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Lam Dong).

Advocacy on forest rights allocation to local communities continued in 2013, with FGLG sharing their findings on forest tenure and benefit sharing with stakeholders in Dak Lak province, using the opportunity to promote community title allocation. Further data was also collected in Bac Kan province to form the basis of a policy brief. Lessons from the field, however, had indicated that a barrier to the full effectiveness of such promotion was the fact that local communities had very limited awareness both of their own rights and responsibilities and those of other stakeholders. To address this problem, the FGLG organised a series of awareness-raising events to strengthen communities' awareness of existing legal frameworks, provide a forum for discussion and in turn boost their confidence and skills in taking possible action to claim their rights themselves. In 2013, around 200 people took part in such events, mainly in Thua Thien Hue and Dak Lak provinces.

## A question of governance: exploring and embedding new concepts and approaches

The need for such an approach reflected the reality that the very concept of forest governance involving community participation in forest management is still relatively novel in Vietnam: including for members of the FGLG themselves. In both 2012 and 2013 a training event – the first of its kind – was organised for FGLG members and a multidisciplinary group of participants, including forest officials from national and provincial levels on the concept of governance. This led lecturers from Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (HUAF) subsequently to make forest governance part of the institution's training curriculum. In between the two governance training events, in early 2013, the group also organised a complementary gathering on the

concept of CFM. This included training in facilitation skills aimed at enabling participants to apply in practice the knowledge they had acquired in their later work with communities.

Such training in turn enhanced the value of study tours continued in 2013 to examine emerging CFM best practice in Vietnam.

At the same time, the FGLG has been recognised for the contribution it can make itself to initiatives promoting and strengthening approaches to governance. Of particular note was an invitation to the FGLG convenor to share Vietnam's experience internationally as part of team of experts developing a guidebook for data collection to support a forest governance monitoring framework produced by the FAO and World Bank. The convenor similarly helped to develop data collection tools for a participatory governance assessment under the UN-REDD programme and was in an effective position to organise sessions on governance and local participation in co-chairing Vietnam's REDD+ sub-technical working group on governance.

Making use of its accumulated local knowledge and technical expertise, the FGLG has sought to influence national policy on CFM. The group played an active role in sharing its experiences of CFM pilot projects at an international workshop it helped to organise, 'Community Forestry in Vietnam: Status and Policy Development Orientation', which was held in April 2013 in Thua Thien Hue province.

Work on legitimate forest products has been an important feature of the FGLG's work, including in the light of Vietnam embarking on negotiation of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU under the FLEGT initiative since 2010. In contributing to the faltering VPA process, in 2012-13 the group carried out research and drafted a report on the chain of custody for timber from smallholder forests. This followed earlier work to develop a clear definition of timber legality in Vietnam on behalf of the Vietnamese network of NGOs on FLEGT.

## Training of teachers on REDD+

Much higher on the official policy agenda, however, has been the REDD+ process and the FGLG has made contribution to the development and implementation of Vietnam's REDD+ action plan an important strand of work. It co-chairs the REDD+ sub-technical working group on governance, for example. While engaging at the national level, however, a key thrust of the FGLG's efforts has been to build community awareness and capacity on REDD+ and climate change, seeking to address the gap between the purported centrality of local communities to the success of REDD+ and actors' relatively weak understanding of REDD+ issues and how to promote the maximisation of community benefits.

As part of a NORAD-funded grassroots capacity building initiative on REDD+ managed by RECOFTC, the FGLG ran a 'training-of-teachers' (TOT) initiative from 2011 onwards. Trained as teachers were seven members of the FGLG from the three target provinces in the project, with the group convenor then visiting the TOT trainees to prepare the delivery of a series of provincial and district level workshops to multiply the replication of knowledge and expertise. Also organised were two seminars targeting Hue university students. The TOT initiative reached over 500 participants. An important theme in training with communities potentially standing to benefit

from REDD+ was how to manage community expectations and assess community needs in the context of their own responsibilities for forest management practices enabling them to benefit.

## Social safeguards

In 2012-13, the FGLG shifted its attention to the question of social safeguards in REDD+. Using the results of a review it conducted of safeguards issues, the group held a series of consultation events for different groups of stakeholders. In Thua Thien Hue, the consultation involved university lecturers from HUAF. In Hanoi, discussion involved government and non-governmental representatives at national level, as well as NGO members of the climate change working group dealing with mitigation issues. A consultation was also held with FGLG members during the group's annual meeting in October 2012. Based on the events, the FGLG prepared a briefing document to outline the main social safeguards for REDD+ in Vietnam as well as the indicators required to assess their achievement.

## Valuing learning and exchange opportunities

Given the relatively novel concepts of governance and CFM, the participation and contribution of the Vietnam team in international learning events has been particularly important for the group. The group organised the 8th international FGLG learning event in Hue city in 2012 involving all FGLG country teams, as well as RECOFTC, IIED and various international and national organisations in Vietnam. The event helped further to strengthen the understanding of key stakeholders in Vietnam on forest governance and the role of local communities. Two members of Vietnam's FGLG also took part in the 2013 international FGLG learning event in China. Challenges remain, however. Frequent attendance of meetings involving the wider team of country FGLGs is not possible, and language barriers mean that many members of the group in Vietnam have difficulty attending international events to share learning.

# Impact – strong foundations for bridging the community-government gap

Some of the main achievements and impacts of the FGLG in Vietnam include the following:

- Emergence of stronger partnership and teamwork between FGLG members at national and provincial levels and the growing ability of the FGLG to act as a bridge between government, local authorities, communities and Vietnam's emerging civil society organisations.
- Raised government awareness of forest governance and CFM issues and the need to improve the forest land allocation process based on pilot experiences, with the FLA plan in Dak Lak province recognising FGLG recommendations to strengthen support for CFM, for example.
- More productive engagement between communities involved in forestry and government officials, with FGLG members now better able to facilitate such a shift as result of their own stronger adoption and promotion of participatory approaches.

- Introduction of forest governance into the training curriculum of Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, following FGLG awareness-raising on natural resources governance and CFM as relatively new concepts in the country.

## Future plans – civil society links and shaping the national agenda on CFM

The main priorities and specific ideas identified for the FGLG in Vietnam to build on the progress, achievements and impact of the project include:

- Exploiting more fully the value of strengthening engagement of civil society organisations on account of their comparative advantage in responding flexibly and to local communities' needs.
- Stepping up work to promote the strengthening of incentives for local communities to undertake CFM.
- Ensuring that the FGLG is in as strong a position as possible to influence the shaping of the national policy framework on CFM when the second phase of CFM piloting launched in 2012 comes to an end.
- Ensuring that positive developments in policy design are translated into effective implementation.



Forest Governance Learning Group, 2012, Nghi Xuan Village, Vietnam. Decisions about forests affect community fisheries management too. © IIED



Forest Governance Learning Group, March 2013, Tengchong, China. Lumber yard. © Simon Lim / IIED



# International FGLG work in *Social Justice in Forestry*

## Key features of FGLG progress, impact and future plans

- Facilitation, internationally and at country level, of a strong level of cross-learning, collaboration and communication between the FGLG initiative and a range of international processes and initiatives in the forest sector.
- Shared learning enabling a series of co-funded events, studies, reports, trainings, workshops and actions to take place.
- Effective support to enhance impact at a country level – especially on governance issues explicitly prioritised by country groups.
- Successful launch of the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform, with initiatives underway to build on its outcomes and strengthen its strategic scope and impact.

## Progress – learning, promotion and launch of a China-Africa platform

Complementing the pursuit of impact on forest governance by country groups in the ten focus countries, the FGLG project has been an international initiative. As well as supporting the work of the FGLGs through individual advice on methodological approaches and best practice and the facilitation of exchange and learning between countries, the FGLG initiative has drawn on the emerging pool of experiences and impacts at country and regional levels to promote lessons and recommendations internationally.

With the overall aim of influencing international policies and processes (project output 4), the specific purpose of this international work has been to ensure that international networks and processes better incorporate understanding about effective action for improved social justice in forestry.

IIED has been in charge of steering this international FGLG work alongside its role in managing the project. The work has involved three main approaches: fostering cross-country learning and partnerships amongst the groups; synthesising and promoting overall learning in international networks and forums and advocating changes in international policy regimes; and developing particular international initiatives for this purpose.

Selected highlights of this work, focusing on 2011-13, are outlined below, with particular attention paid to the launch of a distinct initiative to address the strategic importance of the China-Africa relationship on forest governance as an issue that had increasingly come to the fore during the implementation of the *Social Justice in Forestry* project.

### Cross-country learning and partnerships

- Cross-team work between the Malawi and Mozambique FGLGs on the charcoal trade, and between the Mozambique and Tanzania groups on the cross-border timber trade and REDD+ strategy, leading to signs of positive action by governments (see relevant country sections).
- Production and dissemination of a position paper on *REDD+, governance and community forestry*, following dialogue and joint work among Asian FGLGs facilitated by the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre (RECOFTC). This was well-received by stakeholders.
- The capturing and promotion of 'FGLG – Stories of Change' in audio-visual, online and print outputs by the Vietnam and Indonesia groups, supported by RECOFTC, highlighting the lessons and tangible impacts of the FGLGs' work in the two countries.
- Effective use of the Stories of Change and the *REDD+, governance and community forestry* publication by RECOFTC to boost the public profile of FGLG in Asia, using these outputs and findings in presentations and discussions.

## International learning

- Continued organisation of international learning events to facilitate in-person exchange, learning, joint planning and targeted FGLG collaboration in engaging with international forums and processes on forestry governance.
- In March 2012, the eighth learning event, held in Hue province in Vietnam, provided a valuable opportunity to share experience of work on forest rights, provide and receive feedback and mutually develop FGLG capacity, as well as strengthen strategies on processes such as FLEGT and REDD+.
- In March 2013, the ninth international learning event, held in Yunnan province, China, provided a forum both to tighten plans to maximise and evaluate impact in the final year of the FGLG project and to contribute to crucial new initiatives being launched such as the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform and exchange insights with Chinese colleagues on its future development (see section below).
- Launch and widespread in-country and international broadcasting of six justice-in-the-forests films, as well as production and promotion of the *Just forest governance* report highlighting the impacts and plans of FGLG work.
- Internal and external recognition of the benefits and effectiveness of the FGLG approach, as reflected by two major new initiatives led by IIED – the South Asia Climate Resilience Alliance, and Sustainable Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining – which explicitly adopt the FGLG model of in-country learning teams together forming an international learning group.

## International influencing and initiatives

- Vital contributions from country FGLGs enriched IIED's production for the FAO of an implementation guide on forest issues in support of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security agreed by FAO member states in May 2012. The result of the two years' work, *Improving governance of forest tenure: a practical guide* was published in 2013.
- Participants in the FGLG initiative, including IIED personnel, were heavily involved in a three-year initiative of the Forests Dialogue to hold dialogues on forest governance with communities, different investor groups and other stakeholders in 10 countries. This culminated in a synthesis of evidence and helping to shape the content of a *Guide to investing in locally controlled forestry*, jointly published by the Forests Dialogue, IUCN and IIED.

The guide has been used by FGLGs in several countries to support practical action aimed at increasing investment in locally controlled forestry. In Mozambique, for example, the group took part in a detailed scoping exercise in Niassa province with the support of SIDA, the Swedish development agency.

## Launch of the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform

In 2013, a major development and achievement in the FGLG initiative's international work was the launch of the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform at an inception event held in Beijing. Bringing together over 80 participants from China, African countries, the UK and Indonesia among others, the gathering was organised by IIED in collaborative partnership with China's Global Environmental Institute (GEI), the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) and the State Forest Administration.

The vital importance of this initiative cannot be over-emphasised in that China has become Africa's biggest trading partner – the value of trade surging from US\$11 billion to US\$166 billion over the last decade – and African timber exports to China are very significant for a range of countries in the region. Some 90 per cent of Mozambique's timber exports are destined for China, for example.

Set up as a mechanism for African policy researchers and opinion formers and their Chinese counterparts to engage in exchange and strategic policy intervention on investment and trade issues affecting forest governance, the platform links FGLGs in key African countries, where Chinese investment in the forest sector is of increasing importance, with a small team of China policy researchers and opinion formers. The aim of the platform is to facilitate exchange and learning about the key links in supply chains where stakeholder action is needed to improve the prospects for sustainability and local livelihoods, with findings and lessons shared and explored more widely to influence decision-making.

To help set the scene for platform discussions, and to provide an initial analytical foundation for the immediate development of the platform, IIED worked with African consultants and African FGLGs, particularly in Mozambique and Tanzania, to hold a preparatory review of available evidence and perceptions of the China-Africa forestry trade and forest governance issues, with one synthesis looking at the 'Africa side' of the relationship and the other at the 'China side'.

The syntheses were debated at the event in order to engage stakeholders from Africa and China, in particular invited leading officials and high-level forest sector leaders. A more targeted discussion was also held, with a smaller group of Chinese and African opinion formers, organisation leaders and forestry initiative managers and practitioners further debating the key issues and identifying a programme of actions to address them.

## Policy opportunities and priorities for action, including research

A significant observation in the discussions was that there would appear to be growing momentum among Chinese stakeholders to improve the regulations and legality of imported timber, including positive policy development such as the 2013 issuance of Guidelines for Environmental Protection in Foreign Investment and Cooperation aimed at overseas Chinese companies. This complemented the earlier Guidelines on Sustainable Overseas Forests Management and Utilization by Chinese Enterprises released in 2009 to improve both the sustainability of Chinese companies operating overseas and forest governance and livelihoods in Africa.

On reaching a firm consensus that China has an increasingly important role to play in improving forest governance in Africa, the launch agreed several priorities for detailed action planning and implementation in the wake of the event. As well as sharing the Chinese guidelines with African stakeholders and finalising and publishing the two evidence and perceptions reviews in the light of feedback, the meeting agreed that a much more ambitious portfolio of research needed to be launched and promoted to lay the basis for full and shared understanding of the positive and negative effects of China-Africa forest governance links. Among the key topics identified for exploration were:

- Existing and emerging guidelines, standards, principles and legislation in Africa and China affecting the activities of Chinese forest enterprises in African countries.
- Practices and models of scales and types of effective forest management, in the context of related issues such as land and forest tenure, in China and African countries.
- Cross-sectoral analysis to understand how Chinese investments in non-forest sector investments impact on forest governance.
- Case studies of timber trade and forestry investments involving Chinese companies in specific African countries with investigative reporting by Chinese journalists.
- Chinese domestic market regulations and consumer priorities and their potential to encourage overseas Chinese companies to apply sustainable forest management principles.

The meeting also agreed that it would work towards the holding the next major meeting of the platform in Africa. This would assess progress against the above research agenda and also review experiences and pilot projects to implement the Chinese guidelines.

IIED published a full report on the agenda of the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform, *Report of an Inception Event and Future Agenda*. In 2014, it also published '*Chinese views of African forests: evidence and perception of China-Africa links that impact the governance of forests and livelihoods*'.

## Impact – adding value and achieving recognition

The main achievements and impacts of the FGLG initiative's international work include:

- Facilitation, internationally and at country level, of a strong level of cross-learning, collaboration and communication between FGLG and a range of international processes and initiatives in the forest sector. These have included REDD+, FLEGT, the Forest Dialogue, Growing Forest Partnerships, Forest Connect, African Model Forests Network and PROFOR.
- Increased profile and influence of the FGLG initiative, with shared learning enabling a series of co-funded events, studies, reports, trainings, workshops and actions to take place within the participating countries that would otherwise have not happened if work had taken place in isolation.

- Helping to enhance impact at a country level – especially on governance issues explicitly prioritised by country groups. For example, Indonesia's FGLG significantly improved transparency and participation in REDD+ and Ghana's FGLG achieved greater civil society voice in the VPA negotiations.
- Agreement of a memorandum of understanding between the Chinese and Mozambican governments in the wake of the launch of China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform. This paved the way for training in Mozambique on regulatory frameworks and guidelines with 50 small and large Chinese-owned enterprises.
- Donor recognition of the quality and value of the FGLG approach. For example, UK aid of the UK government decided in early 2012 to provide additional support for FGLG work through a grant covering a range of IIED initiatives on natural resource management, tackling climate change, sustainable markets and shaping urbanisation.

## Future plans – embedding lessons and sustaining China-Africa momentum

The main initiatives planned to build on the progress, achievements and impact of international FGLG work include:

- Engagement by FGLG participants in international processes to embed FGLG findings. For example, the convener of the FGLG in Cameroon has taken part in the International Expert Group for the Least Developed Countries initiative on the post-2015 development cooperation framework. Meanwhile, IIED is involved in helping to roll-out of the FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on land.
- Sustaining the momentum created by the launch of China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform. As well as ensuring that priorities agreed at the event are taken forward as effectively as possible within currently available time and resources (see above), a major push is planned to secure proper finance for the further development and consolidation of the initiative.

In support of the latter, IIED has developed a three-year project, starting in 2014 and funded by the UK Aid's Forest Governance, Markets and Climate programme (FGMC), to promote China-Africa collaboration to improve forest resource governance. This will involve IIED working with Chinese partners GEI and CAF, African partners from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Uganda as well as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International, which has a strong record of regional and global work on forest-linked investment between China and Africa and has also been promoting sustainable forest management within the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) process.

Involving a similar FGLG approach, with expert multi-stakeholder 'practitioner teams' conducting collaborative research and verifying and promoting findings through policy stakeholder engagement, the initiative will take forward more robustly key research issues identified

at the 2013 China-Africa platform launch event – such as the need to examine guidelines, standards, principles and legislation in Africa and China affecting the activities of Chinese forest enterprises in Africa.

In addition to stakeholder dialogue and learning events to nurture shifts in policy and practice, training is envisaged in the African focus countries. One strand of training will be aimed at government officials, small, medium and large enterprises and civil society organisations to raise their understanding of regulatory frameworks on legality and sustainability so they can variously adopt best practice in the traceability of supply chains, monitor timber trading effectively, enforce penalties where necessary and hold each other to account.

The other strand will be aimed at providing enterprise support training for Chinese-linked small and medium enterprises. Interventions to encourage Chinese investors to implement and monitor codes of practice and to support Chinese-linked enterprises to achieve legal verification and certification will be organised.

Also envisaged, to contribute to wider public awareness, are media visits and exchanges involving African and Chinese journalists. Meanwhile, advocacy is planned to influence governments and investor groups so that public policies are introduced and business standards upheld to tackle the trade in timber and other commodities from illegal forest practices. The aim is to achieve policy consistency between China and Africa on forests and deforestation, particularly through engagement with FOCAC, in the context of other international processes such as REDD+ and FLEGT.

## Evaluating ‘*Social Justice in Forestry*’: achievements, impact and lessons

An independent evaluation of the 2009-13 *Social Justice in Forestry* project was undertaken and its results published in early 2014. Research involved three country visits (India, Cameroon and Mozambique) where the consultant held workshops, meetings and discussions with key individuals and FGLG members and undertook one field visit (in Mozambique).

It also involved a desk review of reports, documents and other materials (such as websites and videos), telephone conversations (based on an open questionnaire) with FGLG members in other focus countries, email discussions with key individuals concerned with forest governance globally, as well as meetings and telephone discussions with IIED staff.

The consultant drew in addition on responses to a self-evaluation form that each country FGLG had completed. The findings were finalised and published after presentation and discussion with forest trade and governance officials from the EC, the project donor. This section synthesises some of the evaluation report's main findings.

## Good performance and good value for money

The evaluation concluded that the overall performance of the project had been moderate to high when assessed against evaluation criteria such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability and innovation. It judged that the project had been particularly strong in terms of its conceptual relevance and methodological approach (operation of country FGLG teams), as well as its efficiency. The project had been in line with, and made its own significant contribution to, global thinking increasingly recognising the centrality of governance issues to forest conservation and poverty reduction. And, for relatively small country budgets – around €25,000 per year – very significant results had been achieved at a country level.

## Optimal impact?

At the same time, the report found that the project, despite the frequent progress represented by such achievements, had not registered impact as high as planned on country level forest governance and international processes, particularly from the point of view of the positive policy shifts frequently generated by the FGLG teams being translated into practical implementation and enforcement eventually benefiting forest-reliant communities. This was partly due to the understandable gap between ambition and the scale of the considerable challenges involved, but also reflected possibly avoidable problems in project design, planning and implementation, according to the evaluation.

While recognising that the project's purpose and theory of change had concentrated on improving forest governance rather than immediately securing tangible gains for communities, the report claimed that the project could have included a stronger emphasis on promoting the voice and influence of forest-dependent people in governance processes, notwithstanding noteworthy examples of such an approach being taken in countries such as India and Vietnam.

## Overall achievement of outputs

Whatever the project's gaps and challenges, however, the overall conclusion of the evaluation report was that the 'direction of change is mostly positive' and that project had laid an important foundation on which future progress in pursuit of better forest governance could be built. Indeed, it noted that of the project's four intended outputs, three had been largely met (output 1 on reforms and decisions in favour of forest rights and small enterprise; output 3 on pro-poor climate change mitigation and adaptation through forestry; and output 4 on transnational learning on effective action for improved social justice in forestry), while output 2 (on improving the legality of forest products and institutionalising citizen engagement on the issue to strengthen broader forest governance) had been partly met.

Further insights were provided by the report's examination of work to achieve the specific target indicators set to measure progress towards each of the four project outputs. It found that areas in which the project had registered strong achievement included policies and procedures favouring local forest control (output indicator 1.1); multi-stakeholder engagement in forest legality and other decision-making processes (2.1); all aspects of engagement with national REDD+ processes (3.1, 3.2 and 3.3) and the use of various media aimed at influencing debates and governance for social justice (4.3).

By contrast, the FGLG project had performed less well against indicators for actions aimed at bringing greater areas of forest under sustainable management controlled by community institutions (1.5); initiatives for putting forest information into the public domain (2.4); and establishing synergy between adaptation and mitigation forestry (3.5). The report noted, however, that this apparent weaker performance was largely due to the country FGLG teams' lack of specific engagement in these areas rather than actions proving ineffective. Indeed, as shown by the earlier country sections, FGLG teams have tended to identify areas for intervention based on their own knowledge and interest, with the result that other areas may have been given less attention.

## Country impacts: highlights

Extensive detail on national achievements and impact in the *Social Justice in Forestry* project is provided in the country sections above, but among the examples of governance impacts briefly highlighted by the evaluation – and with potentially beneficial reverberations for people – were:

- **India:** the project contributed to the formulation and subsequent rules and guidelines for the Forest Rights Act. This has established the legal rights for forest dependent and tribal people to utilise local forest resources and will increasingly have an important impact on social justice.
- **Indonesia:** the project strengthened the country's REDD+ process and programme by linking the national programme to the sub-national (actual implementation) level and by increasing transparency, stakeholder participation in the REDD+ process. As a result, REDD+ is now much more likely to be implemented in a way that contributes to social justice and local needs.
- **Malawi:** the project provided evidence to influence policy discussions and government actions on the charcoal trade. This led to an understanding of the legitimacy of the charcoal trade and its importance for local communities. When translated into supportive programmes and regulations, this will enable local people to establish charcoal enterprises from sustainably managed forests for the first time thus contributing to their livelihoods.
- **Mozambique:** the project raised civil society and media awareness on the illegal timber trade that was leading to over-exploitation of forests and led to action by government to combat corruption and engage in discussions with Chinese logging companies and timber traders for the first time. This has also had impacts for the local people who depend on these forest resources.
- **South Africa:** the project initiated a shift in the government's approach to working with outside stakeholders by organising and supporting small forest growers to lobby for a more favourable institutional and regulatory environment that will stimulate small-scale forest enterprises. This has been strengthened by the possibility of a government-sponsored enterprise support programme.

## Setting benchmarks for change to maximise strategic focus and targeting

In assessing impact, however, one of the main problems faced, according to the evaluation report, was the alleged failure of the project to determine well-defined outcomes and specific outcome indicators geared to each country, relying instead on use of general indicators across the board. Though acknowledging the difficulty of assembling and managing such a high level of detail in a complex ten-country initiative, the report suggested that the lack of clear benchmarks had also been due to gaps in information-gathering and situation analysis.

Critically noted was the fact that insufficient efforts had been made to hold systematic assessments of forest governance prior to the start of the project to pinpoint weaknesses and opportunities. Better preliminary analysis of the existing governance situation in each country, the report suggested, followed by agreement within and among FGLG teams on strategies, targeting of actions and identifying specific tactics would have strengthened both the identification and maximisation of potential impact.

Thus, while one of the strengths of FGLG teams' operation across the focus countries had been their flexibility and responsiveness to policy opportunities as they arose, questions were begged as to whether the most strategic course of action had always been adopted in each case, with variations across countries in terms of the extent to which they had taken a more focused and targeted approach probably better geared to achieving impact. A greater balance was needed. In project management terms, noted the report, weaknesses in this area had similarly led to variations in the content and approach of annual project planning and reporting and monitoring and evaluation.

## Impact evidence, risk assessment and gender

Furthermore, sustaining situation analysis and organising a greater number of impact studies during project implementation would have enabled risks and emerging challenges to be better assessed. Studies on charcoal in Malawi and illegal logging in Tanzania, for example, had been effective in providing empirical data and stimulating public interest and action, but there was a lack of evidence on what governance changes had meant or would mean for communities, given the typical gap between policy and practice. In Cameroon, the achievement of more effective controls on commercial logging had been matched by an apparent increase in less-regulated and potentially more damaging 'small licences'. Commissioning more impact studies, along with better assessment of the status of forest governance, featured strongly in the evaluation's recommendations for future work.

Gender considerations would not appear overall to have been an explicit focus in project planning and targeting, despite individual instances of gender-focused interventions and a positive gender balance existing across FGLG teams.

## Adding significant international value – aligning ambition and capacity to achieve impact?

In relation to output 4, the evaluation found that the project's significant activity such as international learning events, the facilitation of country and regional exchanges, the creation of specific learning platforms as well as the production of tools and materials had often enabled effective engagement with international networks, policy learning and influencing processes on forest governance such as REDD+ and FLEGT. Such initiatives and benefits would not have existed without the FGLG project.

Nevertheless, the report, while valuing the strong benefits of such a collaborative approach for FGLG capacity-building and the overall FGLG initiative's profile and thematic projection, judged that impact at this level – promoting findings and learning to embed recognition and integration of a social justice focus in forest governance – was less clear than that achieved by FGLG teams in the ten focus countries. This was partly because of the wide diversity of processes potentially to be targeted, each with its own characteristics and dynamics requiring more extensive engagement than the FGLG initiative globally could have feasibly undertaken. The evaluation suggested it was probably over-ambitious for a relative small initiative such as *Social Justice in Forestry* to achieve significant impact of its own in such an international environment.

## Drawing the lessons for the China-Africa platform as a milestone achievement

The evaluation went on to draw out the implications of this dilemma for the recently launched China-African Forest Governance Learning Platform, suggesting that IIED should consider carefully how to find a strategically appropriate niche on the China-Africa trade and investment relationship, with the social justice in forestry perspective providing the most potential for doing so. The report highlighted the emergence and establishment of the China-Africa FGLP as a milestone achievement in international FGLG work, stating that this initiative, still at too early a stage for impact to be assessed (notwithstanding signs of early progress in Mozambique), represented a solid foundation on which to build in the future, if given appropriate support.

## Validity, achievements and constraints of the FGLG approach

In looking at project effectiveness, the evaluation concluded that the learning group approach had been confirmed as a valid and innovative methodology with a proven record of achievement. It found that the informality and autonomy of FGLG teams' operation, with teamwork based on individual rather than institutional membership, had been effective in influencing policy and practice as members were recognised for their expert knowledge and professional expertise rather than for any pre-established policy positions they might hold. As a result they were better able to nurture open debate and trust among stakeholders and also exploit, to the considerable advantage of the FGLG teams, the value of their wider policy contacts and links with the networks.

At the same time, the evaluation observed that such strengths also entailed implicit weaknesses. An important constraint noted was that high external demand for FGLG members' engagement

outside the group, along with their inevitable professional mobility because of their considerable expertise, had often imposed limits on the immediate time they could devote to the group and on their sustained participation and commitment. The fact that FGLG members would move to take up influential responsibilities elsewhere was of course a positive outcome of the project's work, asserted the evaluation, but the risk was that changes in the composition of the groups threatened to undermine the retention and future deployment of effective approaches.

## Recognition, innovation and lessons-promotion challenges

Though the need for stronger institutionalisation related to lessons and approaches rather than FGLG teams as 'organisations', the evaluation raised the question of whether more could have been done to boost team cohesion and identity as well as the public profile and stakeholder understanding of the groups' actual work. The fact that groups operated as loose networks of collaborators rather than as institutions frequently meant that their work tended to be associated with particular individuals and organisations rather than the FGLG teams themselves. Internationally, by contrast, a fair degree of recognition of FGLG work had been achieved, but detailed understanding of its actual substance had been weaker, according to stakeholder interviews.

As it was often unclear what would happen with the body of practice generated by FGLG work, the evaluation concluded that more effort could have been made and needed to be invested to institutionalise experiences, lessons and good practices. Among the tools suggested were stronger documentation, the establishment and use of websites and strategic exploitation of initiatives such as Indonesia's 'alumni' system, which lent itself well to the potential of social networking.

While praising the continued value of the FGLG approach, the evaluation found that in comparison with the earlier phase of work in 2005-09, the adoption of new creative methods and actions in the *Social Justice in Forestry* project had not been as strong. For example, the full potential of social media to facilitate communication and coordination within and between FGLG teams had not been exploited, although there were many instances of on-line exchange producing impressive results such as the Malawi FGLG being inspired by the work of its counterpart in Uganda to tackle corruption in forest concession processes.

## Social networking and media

Better use of information, communication technologies and social media was therefore a key recommendation, to complement and sometimes replace workshops and workshop reports as a project tactic. Workshops had been very effective and involved the benefits of in-person discussion, but this was time- and resource-intensive – particularly at an international level, where participants tended to be existing leading experts and where effective follow-up action was not always ensured to sustain the value of ideas generated during the rich discussions held. Country participation in international learning events would appear to have involved benefits for country capacity development rather than direct contributions to country level governance outcomes. Universally valued in project self-assessments was the effectiveness of IIED support for project implementation and coordination.

The evaluation recommended in turn – noting examples of influential media attention surrounding illegal logging in Tanzania and Mozambique – the need to fully exploit the value of engaging the wider mass reach media as a channel for public awareness and pressure on policymakers. This would help ensure that FGLG and stakeholder debate and action stemming from research studies and findings would be extended from workshops to the public arena where it matters most.

## Sustainability and systematisation

In assessing the overall sustainability of *Social Justice in Forestry*, the evaluation report concluded that most of the country FGLG teams established would persist in one form or another after the end of the project and that the FGLG approach would continue to operate – a view also expressed by all FGLG teams consulted. At the same time, how structured the FGLG teams' operation and teamwork would prove to be in the future remained to be seen, with the evaluation scoring sustainability as moderate.

The evaluation identified the social capital accumulated during the project as a strength. An advantage of the FGLG teams was that they did not have expensive infrastructure and salaries to maintain, because of the fluidity and informality of FGLG membership, but they would nevertheless require funds to cover essential initiative costs such as travel, workshops, meetings, publications and media work. The prospects for fundraising, including at a country or regional level, to support such activities varied across countries and regions. Meanwhile, the positive start of the China-Africa initiative and likely external interest in its development and consolidation suggested favourable circumstances for finding funds and ensuring its future sustainability.

In terms of global support for sustaining current achievements and impact as well as future FGLG initiatives and approaches, a key recommendation of the evaluation was that the project should immediately establish a central archive and online repository providing easy access to all materials generated during the project. Vitally recommended too was an effort to capture and consolidate evidence of what FGLG approaches work, and of why and how they work, under different governance settings.

Such a systematisation of experiences would not only help strengthen FGLG teams' future development of theories of change. It would also be aimed at external audiences keen to adopt effective approaches on forest governance, making the most of the considerable potential for exploring and promoting FGLG linkages with wider donor-supported initiatives in the forest governance field.

It would appear that stronger advocacy may be required to support the emergence of such a wider critical mass of engagement on social justice in forestry. Despite evidence that both Brussels and EC delegations overseas had shown limited engagement with the FGLG initiative during the course of its implementation, the evaluation praised the EC for its courage and forward-looking approach in deciding to support *Social Justice in Forestry*.

# Annex: films, media and publications

## Films

CTV (2011) 'Natureza em perigo' CTV, Maputo, Mozambique.

IIED and Dominic Elliot (2011) 'Tackling forest governance: how small groups can have a big impact', IIED.  
<http://pubs.iied.org/G03145.html>

IIED and Dominic Elliot (2011) 'Justice in the forests', IIED.  
<http://pubs.iied.org/G03145.html>

IIED and Dominic Elliot (2011) 'Burning issues: The problem of charcoal' (Malawi), IIED.  
<http://www.iied.org/justice-forests-malawi>

IIED and Dominic Elliot (2011) 'Local people need legal rights to forests' (Vietnam), IIED.  
<http://www.iied.org/justice-forests-vietnam>

IIED and Dominic Elliot (2011) 'Forests fight back' (Uganda), IIED.  
<http://www.iied.org/justice-forests-uganda>

IIED and Dominic Elliot (2011) 'Trees in local hands' (Ghana), IIED.  
<http://www.iied.org/justice-forests-ghana>

RECOFTC: Audio-visual products capturing FGLG 'Stories of Change', including slideshows, videos, articles, storyboards, calendar, photobook and planner. Videos 'Kisah Emas Hijau Dari NTT' [Bahasa with English subtitles] and 'Community Forest: Provider and final resting place'.  
<http://www.recoftc.org/site/FGLG-Stories-of-Change/>

RECOFTC 'Kisah Emas Hijau Dari NTT' (Video).  
<http://www.recoftc.org/site/FGLG-Stories-of-Change>

RECOFTC 'The Green Gold of East Nusa Tenggara' (Slideshow).  
<http://www.recoftc.org/site/FGLG-Stories-of-Change>

TNRF (2011) 'Government Short falls in timber trade Tanzania'.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHhdNAMxtMI>

TNRF (2012) 'Mama Mitsu promotional'.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-qNo\\_sTadY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-qNo_sTadY)

TNRF (2012) 'REDD: Threat or Opportunity for Tanzania's community?'.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0Vh-gyWUtE>

TNRF-Maajabu Films (2013) Forest Governance Hearing.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tObv1gV4cSQ&feature=youtu.be>

TNRF (2013) 'Communities perspectives on forest governance in Kibaha and Kisarawe Districts'.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGRd3G9HrUA>

## Press and web articles

06-Feb-09, Daily Monitor, Uganda, 'Mabira riots scared Shimon investor'.

04-Feb-11, Daily News, Tanzania 'Fresh look at forestry status'.  
[www.dailynews.co.tz/home/?n=16959](http://www.dailynews.co.tz/home/?n=16959)

16-Feb-11, Daily News, Tanzania, 'Activists want change on carbon credit payments'.  
[www.dailynews.co.tz/home/?n=17340&cat=home](http://www.dailynews.co.tz/home/?n=17340&cat=home)

27-Mar-11, IPP Media/Guardian, Tanzania 'Key players push for urgent forest conservation'.  
<http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=27451>

25-Apr-11, Eco-Business, Asia-Pacific, 'Red book key to managing Vietnam's forests'.  
<http://www.eco-business.com/features/red-book-key-to-managing-vietnams-forests/>

25-Apr-11, Reuters AlertNet, International, 'Films explore who gets to decide about forests'.  
<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/films-explore-who-gets-to-decide-about-forests>

03-May-11, Radio Channel Africa, South Africa, Interview with James Mayers on FGLG.

03-May-11, Radio Cosmos, Namibia, Interview with Mike on FGLG.

17-May-11, IPP Media / Guardian, Tanzania, 'New scheme arouses villagers'.  
<http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=29199>

26-May-11, IPP Media / Guardian, Tanzania, 'Govt urged to involve people in carbon trade'.  
<http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=29496>

30-Jun-11, IPP Media / Guardian, Tanzania, 'Illegal logging rages, blamed on corruption'.  
<http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=30678>

28-Jul-11, Nation Online, Malawi, 'Can Malawi put biomass into REDD+?'.  
[http://www.nationmw.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=263412:can-malawi-put-biomass-into-redd&catid=59:environment&Itemid=177&ct=ga&cad=CACQARgAIAAoATAAOABA0LLE8QRIAVgBYgVlbi1VUw&cd=n6yNgTv34fo&usg=AFQjCNEwvxyNu8caK6DxloU](http://www.nationmw.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=263412:can-malawi-put-biomass-into-redd&catid=59:environment&Itemid=177&ct=ga&cad=CACQARgAIAAoATAAOABA0LLE8QRIAVgBYgVlbi1VUw&cd=n6yNgTv34fo&usg=AFQjCNEwvxyNu8caK6DxloU)

10-Aug-11, REDD-net, International, 'REDD+, governance, and community forestry: highlights from the forest governance learning group Asia experts' meeting'.  
<http://redd-net.org/resource-library/redd+-governance-and-community-forestry-highlights-from-t>

14-Aug-11, Sunday Monitor, 'Museveni Remarks on Mabira Forest giveaway draw anger'.

16-Aug-11, New Vision, 'Government, NFA Officials disagree on Mabira Forest'.  
<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/13/762794>

17-Aug-11, New Vision, 'Uganda loses 86,000 hectares of Forest annually-NFA Report'.

17-Aug-11, Daily Monitor, 'MPs defy President on forest give-away'.  
<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1220264/-/bjyc3mz/-/index.html>

18-Aug-11, The Observer, 'Mabira sale won't solve sugar crisis'.

[http://www.observer.ug/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=14774:mabira-sale-wont-solve-sugar-crisis](http://www.observer.ug/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14774:mabira-sale-wont-solve-sugar-crisis)

21-Aug-11, New Vision, 'MPs dare Museveni in Mabira Forest'.

20-Aug-11, New Vision, 'Will World Bank Allow Government to sell Mabira'.

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/mobile/Detail.aspx?NewsID=317276&CatID=397>

22-Aug-11, Mongabay, USA, 'Uganda resurrects plan to hand over protected forest to sugar company'.

[http://news.mongabay.com/2011/0822-hance\\_mabira.html](http://news.mongabay.com/2011/0822-hance_mabira.html)

23-Aug-11, Daily Monitor, 'NFA is sabotaging Museveni on Mabira'.

23-Aug-11, Daily Monitor, 'Environmentalists give ultimatum to Mehta on Mabira'.

23-Aug-11, Daily Monitor, 'Forest Degradation is not limited to deforestation'.

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/OpEd/Commentary/-/689364/1223672/-/12s3ok5z/-/index.html>

25-Aug-11, Panapress, pan-Africa, 'Study finds plans to protect forests could do more harm than good'.

<http://www.panapress.com/Study-finds-plans-to-protect-forests-could-do-more-harm-than-good---15-791740-27-lang2-index.html>

25-Aug-11, Ghana Business News, Ghana, 'Tropical countries fail to bring social, environmental benefits – Report'.

<http://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2011/08/25/tropical-countries-fail-to-bring-social-environmental-benefits-report/>

25-Aug-11, Forest Carbon Portal, USA, 'Plans to protect forests could do more harm than good unless power is in local hands'.

<http://www.forestcarbonportal.com/news/plans-protect-forests-could-do-more-harm-good-unless-power-local-hands>

25-Aug-11, Ghana News Agency, Ghana, 'Report says tropical countries fail to bring social justice'.

<http://www.ghananewsagency.org/details/Social/Report-says-tropical-countries-fail-to-bring-social-justice/?ci=4&ai=32762>

26-Aug-11, Afrique En Ligne, South Africa, 'Environment: Study finds plans to protect forests could do more harm than good'.

<http://www.afriquejet.com/tropical-countries-2011082621136.html>

29-Aug-11, REDD monitor, UK, 'Just forest governance – for REDD, for sanity'.

<http://www.redd-monitor.org/2011/08/29/redd-in-the-news-22-28-august-2011/>

30-Aug-11, Ghana Business News, Ghana, 'Forest protection plans in Ghana, others headed for disaster unless...'

<http://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2011/08/30/forest-protection-plans-in-ghana-others-headed-for-disaster-unless/>

01-Sep-11, Ecosystem Marketplace, USA, 'IIED to REDD+ Countries: "Slow down, tiger!"

[http://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/dynamic/article.page.php?page\\_id=8518&section=news\\_articles&eod=1](http://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/dynamic/article.page.php?page_id=8518&section=news_articles&eod=1)

03-Sep-11, Guardian Tanzania, 'Conservation of forests: Incentives should trickle down...'

<http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=32946>

04-Sep-11, Forest Industries.EU, Germany, 'Just forest governance - for REDD, for sanity'.

<http://forestindustries.eu/content/just-forest-governance-redd-sanity>

- 5 September 2011, Daily Monitor, 'Museveni softens position on Mabira'.  
<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1230470/-/bjcqlmz/-/index.html>
- 7 September 2011, New Vision, 'Civil Society demands referendum on Mabira giveaway'.  
<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/13/764575>
- 7 September 2011, New Vision, 'Lose Mabira, lose so much'.
- 07-Sep-11, JustMeans, USA, 'Think Tank Warns About Flaws in Sustainable Forestry Scheme'.  
<http://www.justmeans.com/Think-Tank-Warns-About-Flaws-in-Sustainable-Forestry-Scheme/49753.html>
- 16-Nov-11, The New Vision, Uganda, 'Forests can combat climate change' [No link].
- 28-Nov-11, Menafn, Jordan, 'Malawi - Changing Climate Compounds Environmental Degradation'.  
[http://www.menafn.com/qn\\_news\\_story.asp?StoryId=%7b76f59012-d161-4655-b913-ed6d47ee3b22%7d](http://www.menafn.com/qn_news_story.asp?StoryId=%7b76f59012-d161-4655-b913-ed6d47ee3b22%7d)
- 28-Nov-11, AllAfrica.com, USA, 'Malawi: Changing Climate Compounds Environmental Degradation'.  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111281251.html>
- 28-Nov-11, IPS News, Belgium, 'MALAWI: Changing Climate Compounds Environmental Degradation'.  
<http://www.ipsnews.net/2011/11/malawi-changing-climate-compounds-environmental-degradation/>
- 30-Nov-11, Schattenblick, Germany, 'Malawi: Klimakiller Holzkohle - 'Wir sind darauf angewiesen''.  
<http://www.schattenblick.de/infopool/umwelt/internat/uiwa0072.html>
- 02-Dec-11, Toronto Star, Canada, 'Malawi prepares for climate change'.  
<http://thestar.blogs.com/africa/2011/12/malawi-prepares-for-climate-change.html>
- 07-Dec-11, Gender Links, 'Women demand inclusion in efforts to save forests'.  
<http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/women-demand-inclusion-in-efforts-to-save-forests-2011-12-07>
- 15-Dec-11, Mailmaa, Finland, 'Puuhiili yleisin polttoaine ja monen leipäpuu'.  
[http://maailma.net/artikkelit/puuhiili\\_yleisin\\_polttoaine\\_ja\\_monen\\_leipapuu](http://maailma.net/artikkelit/puuhiili_yleisin_polttoaine_ja_monen_leipapuu)
- 31-Dec-2011, University of Berkeley, USA, 'Environment Leadership Programme Alumni Reflect on the UNFCC COP 17'.  
<http://beahrselp.berkeley.edu/elp-alumni-reflect-on-the-unfccc-cop-17/>
- 29-Feb-12, The Independent, Uganda, 'We need effective forest governance'.  
[http://www.independent.co.ug/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5325:we-need-effective-forest-governance&catid=86:opinion&Itemid=330](http://www.independent.co.ug/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5325:we-need-effective-forest-governance&catid=86:opinion&Itemid=330)
- 28-Mar-12, RECOFTC, Thailand, 'Silver Jubilee Reflections at the 8th Global Forest Governance Learning Event'.  
<http://www.recoftc.org/site/resources/Silver-Jubilee-Reflections-at-the-8th-Global-Forest-Governance-Learning-Event.php>
- 28-Mar-12, Da Nang Police News Paper, Vietnam.
- 28-Mar-12, Cong An, Vietnam, '**quản trị rừng dựa vào cộng đồng** (management of community-based forest)'.  
<http://www.cadn.com.vn/News/Phap-Luat/Toa-Soan-Ban-Doc/2012/3/28/75268.ca>
- 04-Apr-12, Eco-business, Asia-Pacific, 'Communities are protecting Vietnam's forests, but are they sharing in the benefits yet?'.  
<http://www.eco-business.com/blog/communities-are-protecting-vietnam%E2%80%99s-forests-but-are->

they-sharing-in-the-benefits-yet-by-leianne-rolington/

10-Apr-12, Tropenbos, International, 'TBI Viet Nam Participates in FGLG International Learning Event'.  
<http://www.tropenbos.org/news/tbi+viet+nam+participates+in+fglg+international+learning+event>

14-Apr-12, Gaia Discovery, Asia, 'Communities Protect Vietnam's Forests: Socio-Economic Benefits Studied'.  
<http://www.gaiadiscovery.com/corporate-social-responsibilit/communities-protect-vietnams-forests-socio-economic-benefits.html>

26-Apr-12, Daily Monitor, 'Civil Society Statement on Durban Climate Change Negotiations, Conference Outcomes and Lessons for Future Climate Talks'.

26-May-12, Saturday Vision, Uganda, 'Districts investing 1% of budget on environment'.

26-May-12, Saturday Vision, Uganda, 'The role of Parliament in sustainable management of Uganda's natural resources'.

27-Jun-12, All Africa, Uganda, 'Interplay between Gender and Climate Change'.  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201206280341.html>

28-Jun-12, The Daily Times, Malawi, 'Rising electricity tariffs endangers forests... as FGLG urges for political will'.

26-Nov-12, New Vision, Uganda, 'Recognise Forest Dependent Communities and their Rights'.  
<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/635956-recognise-forest-dependent-communities-and-their-rights.html>

28-Nov-12, Daily Monitor, 'Civil Society Statement to 7th Climate Change Forum and COP18/CMP8'.

01-Dec-12, The Maravi Post, Malawi, 'Unsustainable logging hits Malawi's panoramic Nyika national park'.  
<http://www.maravipost.com/malawi-news/society/2385-unsustainable-logging-hits-malawi%25E2%2580%2599s-panoramic-nyika-national-park.html&ct=ga&cad=CACQARgAIAAoATAAOAB A7ajqhQVIaVgBYgVlbi1VUw&cd=CDOAbg28Ukl&usg=AFQjCNHRwk4b3mTobvRhGoT8oO3SPKOMgw>

27-Feb-13, Radio Cosmos, Namibia, Interview with Mike Shanahan, IIED, on the China-Africa Forest Governance Platform.

27-Feb-13, Moon of the South, Senegal, 'China is now top importer of timber from Africa, but criticism mounts'.  
<http://moonofthesouth.com/china-top-importer-timber-africa/>

28-Feb-13, News from Africa, Kenya, 'China in Africa: New Forum Seeks Sustainable, Pro-poor Forestry'.  
[http://www.newsfromafrica.org/newsfromafrica/articles/art\\_13797.html](http://www.newsfromafrica.org/newsfromafrica/articles/art_13797.html)

05-Mar-13, Moon of the South, Senegal, 'African and Asian forest experts in China to share decade of learning'.  
<http://moonofthesouth.com/941/>

05-Mar-13, Pana Press, Tanzania, 'African, Asian forest experts meet in China to share decade of learning'.  
<http://www.panapress.com/African,-Asian-forest-experts-meet-in-China-to-share-decade-of-learning--15-864494-27-lang2-index.html>

11-Mar-13, IPP Media, 'Corrupt govt officials, firms ravaging forest reserves'.  
<http://www.ipppmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=52177>

12-Mar-13, Radio Channel Africa, South Africa, Interview with James Mayers, IIED, on FGLG-China.

05-Apr-13, All Africa, 'undervaluing a natural asset'.  
[http://allafrica.com/stories/201304080226.html?goback=%2Egde\\_1958649\\_member\\_230144513](http://allafrica.com/stories/201304080226.html?goback=%2Egde_1958649_member_230144513)

27-Jun-13, New Vision, 'Let us support forest certification'.

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/644423-let-us-support-forest-certification-in-uganda.html>

18-Mar-2014, Red Pepper, Uganda 'Bad policy implementation killing forest sector'.

21-Mar-14, New Vision, Uganda 'Uganda marks the International Forest Day'.

## Publications

### International

Mayers, J. (2009) 'Shifting Power in Forests' IIED, UK.

<http://pubs.iied.org/G02996>

Mayers, J. & Rolington, L. (Eds.) (2011) 'Just Forest Governance – for REDD, for sanity: progress made by the Forest Governance Learning Group' IIED.

<http://pubs.iied.org/G03145.html>.

RECOFTC, IIED, REDD-net (2011) 'REDD+, Governance, and Community Forestry: Highlights from the Forest Governance Learning Group Asia Experts' Meeting' RECOFTC – The Centre for People and Forests.

<http://www.recoftc.org/site/resources/REDD-Governance-and-Community-Forestry.php>.

Tran-Thanh, K., Buckley, L. and Mayers, J. (2013) China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform, Report of an Inception Event and Future Agenda, IIED, London.

<http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/G03633.pdf>

IIED blog: 26-Jan-11 'Lumbering illegality: how to make timber sustainable and pro-poor'.

<http://www.iied.org/blogs/lumbering-illegality-how-make-timber-sustainable-and-pro-poor>

IIED blog: 18-Jul-11 'Biomass in the red – but can we put biomass into REDD+'.

<http://www.iied.org/blogs/biomass-red-%E2%80%93-can-we-put-biomass-redd>

IIED blog: 17-Aug-11 'Uganda's forest grabbers are back - but the people are ready'.

<http://www.iied.org/blogs/ugandas-forest-grabbers-are-back-people-are-ready>

IIED blog: 24-Aug-11 'Sanity in REDD governance shock!'.

<http://www.iied.org/blogs/sanity-redd-governance-shock>

IIED blog: 30-Nov-11 'Louder this time, 'Turn REDD on its head!'.

<http://www.iied.org/louder-time-turn-redd-its-head>

IIED blog: 30-Mar-12 'Communities are protecting Vietnam's forests, but are they sharing in the benefits yet?'.

<http://www.iied.org/communities-are-protecting-vietnam-s-forests-are-they-sharing-benefits-yet>

IIED blog: 20-Mar-13 'China in Africa's forests'.

<http://www.iied.org/china-africa-forests>

Branney, P. (2014) 'Evaluation of the work of the Forest Governance Learning Group 2009-13' IIED, UK.

<http://pubs.iied.org/G03752>

Mayers, J. and Morrison, E. (2014) '*Social Justice in Forestry*: Report of the Ninth International Learning Event of the Forest Governance Learning Group' IIED, UK.

<http://pubs.iied.org/G03793>

Mayers, J., Morrison, E., and Rolington, L. (2014) 'Forest Governance Learning Group: Report of a Learning Event, Vietnam 2012' IIED, UK.

<http://pubs.iied.org/G03786>

Mayers, J. and Weng, X. (2014) 'China-Africa collaboration to improve forest governance' IIED, UK.

<http://pubs.iied.org/17232IIED>

Mayers, J. (2014) 'Battle-scarred forest governance tactics' IIED, UK.

<http://pubs.iied.org/17255IIED>

Millege, S. (2014) 'How corporate governance affects the success of REDD+ projects in Tanzania' IIED, UK.

<http://pubs.iied.org/17221IIED>

## Cameroon

Greg-Forêts (2011) Workshop report: 'Reflection on strategies for reconciling legality and legitimacy of forest products in Cameroon'.

Poverty and Conservation Learning Group Paper No. 5 'Overview of Human Wildlife Conflict in Cameroon'.

[http://povertyandconservation.info/sites/default/files/Overview%20of%20Human%20wildlife%20conflict%20in%20Cameroon\\_0.pdf](http://povertyandconservation.info/sites/default/files/Overview%20of%20Human%20wildlife%20conflict%20in%20Cameroon_0.pdf)

## India

Upadhyay S. (2010) 'FRA Implementation in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh – Key issues and potential steps for redressal' Linked to Access to Justice Program, ELDF.

Upadhyay S. (2010) 'Problems of Implementation' Submissions to the FRA Status of Implementation Committee.

Upadhyay S. (2010) 'Towards Protected Area Governance: Understanding Critical Wildlife Habitat and Critical Tiger Habitat' Briefing Note.

Enviro Legal Defence Foundation (2010) 'Synergizing the Conservation Regime in Forest Rights Act with the Existing Participatory Forest Management System'.

Upadhyay S. (2010) 'Four Points That Need Urgent Attention for PESA-FRA-JFM Connect Note'.

Patnaik, S. (2010) 'Governance notes on Forest Rights Act'.

Upadhyay S. (2010) 'Note on issues raised on FRA in Handholding Workshops'.

Upadhyay S. (2011) 'Note on Post Claim strategy'.

Patnaik S. (2011) Commons and Individuals: Is Forest Rights Act changing debates around Forest Commons?'.  
<http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/dlc/bitstream/handle/10535/7106/843.pdf?sequence=1>

Upadhyay S. (2011) 'International Cooperation and Law Submissions to the Planning Commission'.

Upadhyay S. (2011) 'Forest Governance and Institutional Reforms in India: Urgent and now'.

Centre for People's Forestry (2011) 'Community Guide to Climate Change and REDD+ – Communication material to create awareness among community forestry stakeholders'.

Centre for People's Forestry (2011) 'REDD+ and Perspectives of Community Forestry Stakeholders in India

– Highlights from the dialogues at different levels and National Consultation’.

[http://cpf.in/whatsnew/REDD+Stakeholders\\_IndiaApr2012.pdf](http://cpf.in/whatsnew/REDD+Stakeholders_IndiaApr2012.pdf)

Kalaghati R. ‘Reforms to JFM Guidelines’.

Upadhyay S. (2012) ‘FRA-Problems of Implementation’.

UNDP (2012) ‘Conservation Across Landscapes: India’s Approaches to Biodiversity Governance’.

[http://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/library/environment\\_energy/conservation-across-landscapes/](http://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/library/environment_energy/conservation-across-landscapes/)

Oxfam, FGLG-India & CPF (2012) ‘REDD+ and Perspectives of Community Forestry Stakeholders in India: Highlights from the dialogues at different levels and the National Consultation’.

[http://www.cpf.in/whatsnew/REDD+Stakeholders\\_IndiaApr2012.pdf](http://www.cpf.in/whatsnew/REDD+Stakeholders_IndiaApr2012.pdf)

FGLG-India (2012) Field guide: ‘REDD+ and Participatory Carbon Stock Estimation’ (English and Telugu).

Upadhyay S. (2012) ‘FRA manual cover page’ Linked to the Access to Justice Program-UNDP-MoEF.

Upadhyay S. (2012) ‘Clarification Regarding Guidelines issued under Forest Rights Act’.

Upadhyay S. ‘Note on JFM+’.

Saigal S. (2012) ‘Tree Plantations in India: A Source of Legitimate Forest Products?’.

Upadhyay S. (2012) ‘Note on FLEGT and Lacey Act’.

Upadhyay S. (2012) ‘Note on CAMPA’.

Suryakumari D. (2012) ‘Note reviewing the Green India Mission’.

Centre for People’s Forestry (2012) ‘Field guide (on REDD+ and participatory Carbon Stock Estimation)’.

Upadhyay S. (2013) ‘Vedanta mining pamphlet’.

Bansal A. K. (2013) ‘Note on Evolution of JFM to JFM+’.

Bansal A. K. (2013) ‘Note on Forest Land Tenure’.

## Indonesia

Setyowati, A.B., Gurung, J. & Septiani, Y. (2012). Integrating gender into safeguards implementation in Indonesia. UN-REDD program, UNDP, FAO and UNEP.

Septiani, Y. & Setyawati, T. (2012) Sandalwood resources and its management in East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia. International Sandalwood Symposium Hawaii 2012.

[http://sandalwoodfoundation.org/International\\_Sandalwood\\_Foundation/Symposium\\_Agenda.html](http://sandalwoodfoundation.org/International_Sandalwood_Foundation/Symposium_Agenda.html)

FGLG Indonesia (2013) ‘Synthesizing experience of REDD+ initiatives on the ground’ Natural Resource Development Centre, Indonesia.

<http://nrdfc.com/fglg/publication>

FGLG Indonesia (2013) ‘Analysis of REDD+ benefit sharing in Indonesia; Lesson learned from PES’ Natural Resource Development Centre, Indonesia.

<http://nrdfc.com/fglg/publication>

Setyowati, AB., Gurung, Jeannette. & Septiani, Y (2012) ‘Integrating gender into REDD+ safeguards implementation in Indonesia’ UN-REDD Programme, FAO, UNDP, UNEP.

<http://nrdfc.com/fglg/publication>

Guideline for negotiators; Understanding of REDD+ and LULUCF Negotiations (Memahami Negosiasi Perubahan Iklim: REDD dan LULUCF); (Indonesia version).

<http://nrdcf.com/fglg/publication>

Septiani, Y. & Setyawati, T. (2012) 'Sandalwood resources and its management in East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia. International Sandalwood Symposium Hawaii 2012.'

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/madhugiri-nageswara-rao-and-jaya-r-soneji-and-danica-t-harbaugh-reynaud/proceedings-of-the-international-sandalwood-symposium-2012/paperback/product-21355501.html>

Jauhari, A. Septiani Y., Thaheer, H., Widyantoro, B. Manurung, T. Satono H and and Raharjo B. (2013) 'Sustaining South Kalimantan; An ITTO project has produced a long- term plan for the province's wood industry.' ITTO Tropical Forest Update 22/3.

[http://www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics\\_pdf\\_download/topics\\_id=3761&no=1](http://www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics_pdf_download/topics_id=3761&no=1)

## Malawi

FGLG Malawi (2009) 'Tool number 1. Credible economic evidence for policy change.' CDM, Lilongwe, Malawi.

Kafakoma, R. (2009) 'Locally controlled forestry. Key factors affecting the effectiveness of community based forest management (CBFM) within and outside village natural resource management committees – study report.' TSP, Lilongwe, Malawi.

Kafakoma, R., Mataya, B. (2009). 'Timber value chain analysis for the Vipha Plantations.' TSP, Lilongwe, Malawi. <http://pubs.iied.org/G03138>

FGLG Malawi. (2009) 'Report of the small and medium enterprise development meeting.' CDM, Lilongwe, Malawi.

FGLG Malawi. (2010) 'Designing biomass energy household surveys and value chain analyses. A study visit and follow-up amongst Mozambique and Malawi country teams in the Forest Governance Learning Group.' CDM, Lilongwe, Malawi.

Kambewa, P., Chiwaula, L. (2010) 'Biomass energy use in Malawi.' Background paper prepared for the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) for an international ESPA workshop on biomass energy, 19-21 October 2010, Edinburgh. Chancellor College, Zomba, Malawi.

<http://pubs.iied.org/G03075>

FGLG-Malawi (2011) 'Malawi Policy Brief No.1: Sustainable charcoal production by and for local communities'. <http://pubs.iied.org/G03128>

FGLG-Malawi (2011) 'Malawi Policy Brief No.2: Briefing: Small and medium forest enterprises can reduce poverty'.

<http://pubs.iied.org/G03129>

FGLG-Malawi (2011) 'Malawi Policy Brief No.3: Making community based forest management work.

<http://pubs.iied.org/G03130>

FGLG-Malawi (2011) 'Malawi Policy Brief No.4: Channelling REDD+ finance toward sustainable rural livelihoods in Malawi.

<http://pubs.iied.org/G03131>

Kafakoma, R. & Sibale, B. (2011) 'A rapid assessment of Governance Challenges and Stakeholder Analysis of Dzonzi Mvai Catchment Area in Ntcheu'.

Macqueen, D., Kafakoma, R., Sibale, B. (2011) 'Channelling REDD+ finance toward sustainable rural

livelihoods in Malawi.' Malawi Policy Brief No. 4. CDM, Lilongwe, Malawi.

<http://pubs.iied.org/G03131>

Mataya, B., Chapama, H. (2011) 'Malawi forest reserves under threat? An initial assessment of the likely impacts and implications of the decision to locate Nkhata Bay Hospital in the Kalwe Forest Reserve.' Mzuzu University, Mzuzu, Lilongwe.

CDM. (2011) 'Resuscitation of the Malawi National Forestry Programme Forum.' CDM, Lilongwe, Malawi.

Kafakoma, R. & Mataya, B. (2009 – online 2012) 'Timber value chain analysis for the Viphya Plantations' Malawi Forest Governance Learning Group.

<http://pubs.iied.org/G03138>

Mwambene, C. (2012) 'Report of a National Consultation Process to Resuscitate the Malawi National Forestry Programme Forum'.

CDM. (2012) 'Mpira water dam and Dzonzi Mvai forest study.' CDM, Lilongwe, Malawi.

Sibale, B., Kafakoma, R., Shaba, A., Macqueen, D. (2013) 'Trees on-farm: removing the obstacles to enterprise - A review of current climate-smart tree-based experiences in Malawi.' CDM and IIED, Lilongwe, Malawi.

<http://pubs.iied.org/13566IIED>

Nalivata, P.C., Mapemba, L.D. (In press) 'The importance of biofuels for Malawi and impacts on food and livestock production'. Malawi Policy Brief No. 5. CDM, Lilongwe, Malawi.

## Mozambique

Bila, A. 2011a. Training Manual about Good Practices in Conservation of Sustainable Use of Forest Resources at the Community Level. UEM, Maputo, Mozambique.

Bila, A. 2011b Guide for Forest Conservation Practices at the Community Level. UEM, Maputo, Mozambique.

CTV. 2010. Rethinking the institutional make-up and functions of the new government in environmental management and sustainable development. Briefing paper. CTV, Maputo, Mozambique.

CTV. 2011a. Charcoal production in Mozambique - Impacts and political options for sustainable use of forests. Unpublished report, Centro Terra Viva, Maputo, Mozambique.

CTV 2011b. 1st Relatório de Monitoria e de Boa Governação na Gestão Ambiental e dos Recursos naturais em Moçambique (2010 - 2011).

MacKenzie, C. and Ribeiro, D. 2009. Tristezas Tropicais: More Sad Stories from the Forests of Zambézia. Amigos da Floresta and Justicia Ambiental, Maputo, Mozambique.

<http://www.illegal-logging.info/sites/default/files/uploads/TristezasTropicaisFINALEnglish22May.pdf>

Matsinhe, M. and Soto. 2011. Charcoal Production in Mozambique- Impactos e Opções políticas para a utilização sustentável das florestas. Universidade Eduardo Mondlane and Centro Terra Viva.

Mourana, B. and Serra C. 2010. 20 Passos para a sustentabilidade florestal. Amigos da Floresta and Centro de Integridade Publica, Maputo, Mozambique.

<http://www.cebem.org/cmsfiles/publicaciones/20passos.pdf>

Nhancala, C. Correia. 2011. Lessons learned in community based natural resource management initiatives in the south of Mozambique, KUWUKA JDA – Juventude Desenvolvimento e Advocacia Ambiental & Centro Terra Viva.

Tankar, I., Rafael, B., Sousa, E., Celestino, L.R., Viola, P. and M. P. Falcão. 2013. Evaluation of Transborder Commerce of Forest and Fauna Products between Mozambique and Tanzania in the Rovuma Region. Centro Terra Viva and World WideFund of Nature.

Zolho, R. 2010. Mudanças Climáticas e as Florestas em Moçambique. Amigos da Floresta and IUCN, Maputo, Mozambique.  
[http://www.cebem.org/cmsfiles/publicaciones/Mudancas\\_Climaticas\\_e\\_as\\_Florestas.pdf](http://www.cebem.org/cmsfiles/publicaciones/Mudancas_Climaticas_e_as_Florestas.pdf)

## Tanzania

TNRF/TFCG (2010) 'Recommendations from Tanzanian Civil Society with regard to Tanzania's Readiness Preparation Proposal to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility'.  
[http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/tanzania\\_r-pp\\_cso\\_recommendations.pdf](http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/tanzania_r-pp_cso_recommendations.pdf)

TNRF (2010) 'Options for REDD in Tanzania: Key Design Issues for the National REDD Strategy'.  
[http://www.tnrf.org/files/REDD\\_in\\_TZ\\_Key\\_Issues\\_July\\_2010.pdf](http://www.tnrf.org/files/REDD_in_TZ_Key_Issues_July_2010.pdf)

TNRF (2011) 'Feedback on National REDD Strategy by TZ REDD Pilot Projects'.  
<http://www.tnrf.org/files/FEEDBACK%20First%20Draft%20National%20REDD%20Strategy%20from%20REDD%20Pilot%20Projects.pdf>

TNRF (2011) 'Mainstreaming Gender in REDD in Tanzania'.  
[http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/gender\\_in\\_redd\\_brief\\_v2.pdf](http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/gender_in_redd_brief_v2.pdf)

TNRF (2011) 'REDD Realities: Learning from REDD pilot projects to make REDD Work...'.  
[http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/e-redd\\_realities.pdf](http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/e-redd_realities.pdf)

TNRF (2012) 'Equitable Benefit Sharing: Emerging lessons from REDD+ in Tanzania'.  
[http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/erbs\\_brief\\_print.pdf](http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/erbs_brief_print.pdf)

TNRF (2012) 'Recommendations from Civil Society Organisations for Tanzania's 2nd Draft National REDD+ Strategy and Draft Action Plan'.  
[http://www.tnrf.org/files/REDD%20Strategy%202%20CSO%20Feedback%20Aug%202012\\_30%20August.pdf](http://www.tnrf.org/files/REDD%20Strategy%202%20CSO%20Feedback%20Aug%202012_30%20August.pdf)

TNRF, FGLG-Tanzania. (2012) Technical Report & Summary Report on equitable benefit sharing, exploring lessons for REDD in Tanzania.

TNRF (2013) Forest Governance Hearing, New Africa Hotel, Dar-es-Salaam, 26 February 2013.

TNRF (2013) 'Misitu yetu inasimamiwaje? Wananchi wanena kuhusu usimamizi wa misitu Tanzania'.  
[http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/forest\\_hearing\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/forest_hearing_booklet.pdf)

TNRF (2013) 'Misitu yetu inasimamiwaje? Kijarida cha Taarifa Novemba 2013 Wananchi wanena kuhusu usimamizi wa misitu Tanzania'.  
[http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/hearing\\_brief\\_swahili.pdf](http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/hearing_brief_swahili.pdf)

TNRF (2013) The Tanzania Forestry Working Group Overview.  
[http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/tfwg\\_overview.pdf](http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/tfwg_overview.pdf)

TNRF (2013) Tanzania Forestry Working Group Strategy 2012- 2016.  
[http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/tfwg\\_strategy.pdf](http://www.tnrf.org/files/pubs/tfwg_strategy.pdf)

## Uganda

Kiyingi, G., Tenywa, G. (2009) 'Trouble in the forest: A review of evidence, issues and ways forward for forest concession in Uganda'.

Tumushabe, G. (2011). 'A Political Economy Analysis of the Environment and Natural Resource in Uganda.'

ACODE/FGLG & Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change (PFCC) (2011) Briefing paper: 'Critical Issues And Desired COP 17 Outcomes For Uganda: A CSO/Parliamentarian Perspective'.

Press release on the meeting with His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the Save Mabira team held on 4th September 2011 at Ntungamo.

[https://www.regenwald.org/files/pdf/Press\\_Release\\_Mabira\\_Forest\\_NAPE.pdf](https://www.regenwald.org/files/pdf/Press_Release_Mabira_Forest_NAPE.pdf)

ACODE/FGLG (2012) Policy brief 'The Role of Parliament in Sustainable Management of Uganda's Natural Resources'.

Forest Governance Symposium Research Papers (2012):

- 'Achievements, Challenges, and Opportunities in the Forestry Sector 2001 – 2011'.
- 'Forest Sector Contributions to the National Economy; Energy, Financial, Timber, Herbal, Employment Generation and Carbon Trade Opportunities'.
- 'A diagnostic review of corruption in the forestry sector'.
- 'Making a business case for the forest sector in Uganda: successes, opportunities and challenges'.
- 'Political and governance issues affecting the forestry sector: role and effectiveness of ENR Parliamentary Committee and other relevant governance structures'.

SAIIA & ACODE (2012) 'Seminar Report: The Role of Resources in Africa's Future: Towards a Vision for the Governance of Africa's Natural Resources'.

[http://www.saiia.org.za/images/stories/research/garp/rpt\\_seminar\\_uganda\\_garn\\_13\\_march\\_2012.pdf](http://www.saiia.org.za/images/stories/research/garp/rpt_seminar_uganda_garn_13_march_2012.pdf)

ACODE and EMLI. (2013) Policy Brief: 'Critical issues for pro-poor climate change mitigation actions in Uganda'. ENR-CSO.

<http://www.bwaisefacility.org/userfilesbf/file/Policy%20Brief.pdf>

## Vietnam

Sikor, T. & Tan, N. Q. (2012) 'REDD+ Safeguards for Vietnam: Key Issues and the Way Forward' RECOFTC, DEV University of East Anglia.

[http://www.recoftc.org/site/uploads/content/pdf/REDD+SafeguardsVietnam\\_224.pdf](http://www.recoftc.org/site/uploads/content/pdf/REDD+SafeguardsVietnam_224.pdf)

**'Sự thành công của chương trình REDD+ tại Việt Nam không thể thiếu vai trò của người dân địa phương'** ['The success of REDD+ in Vietnam will not be possible without the recognition of the role of local people'] Tạp chí Go Viet (Go Viet Magazine) January 2012.

**Giao Đất Giao Rừng: Chính sách và Kết quả thực tiễn** ['Forest Land Allocation: Policy Framework and Actual Outcomes']. Tạp chí Dân Tộc Học (Journal of Anthropology) 2(176). April 2012.

**Lâm nghiệp Cộng đồng: Tiềm năng, Tồn tại và Hướng đi Trong Tương lai** ['Community Forest Management: Potentials, Limitation and Direction for the future']. Tạp chí Dân Tộc Học (Journal of Anthropology) 3(177). June 2012.

Tan, N. Q. & RECOFTC (January 2012) Forest Sector Support Partnership (FSSP) Newsletter, Vol. 32-33 pp. 10-12 'Participation in Natural Resource Governance'.

[http://vietnamforestry.org.vn/mediastore/fsspco/2012/03/29/FSSP\\_Newsletter\\_32-22\\_E.pdf](http://vietnamforestry.org.vn/mediastore/fsspco/2012/03/29/FSSP_Newsletter_32-22_E.pdf)



Knowledge  
Products

# Research Report

September 2014

---

## Forests

---

*Keywords:*

Forest Governance Learning Group  
(FGLG), Social justice,  
Natural resource management

IIED is a policy and action research organisation. We promote sustainable development to improve livelihoods and protect the environments on which these livelihoods are built. We specialise in linking local priorities to global challenges. IIED is based in London and works in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific, with some of the world's most vulnerable people. We work with them to strengthen their voice in the decision-making arenas that affect them — from village councils to international conventions.



International Institute for Environment and Development  
80-86 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8NH, UK

Tel: +44 (0)20 3463 7399  
Fax: +44 (0)20 3514 9055  
email: [info@iied.org](mailto:info@iied.org)  
[www.iied.org](http://www.iied.org)

