Vision

"To see the forestry sector contributing to improved quality of life of Ugandans based on social, economical and ecological sustainability principles."

Mission

"A network of civil society organisations, academic and research institutions and individuals promoting the development of the forestry sector and aims to stimulate all forestry stakeholders to respond appropriately to changes and challenges within the sector"

Objectives

The objective of UFWG spins around five major objectives, which are aimed at enhancing the capacity of the different stakeholders to manage the natural resources effectively.

a) To mobilise individuals, institutions and CSOs engaged in the forestry sector to identify their roles and responsibilities and therefore support the implementation of the National Forestry Policy and National Forestry Plan
b) To advocate for promotion, compliance and accountability of government with respect to its policy commitments and private sector activities
c) To ensure that individuals, institutions and CSOs engaged in the forestry sector progressively develop capacity in policy analysis, advocacy and independent monitoring
d) To ensure that the implementation of the forestry policy and plan remains pro-poor focussed and enhance sustainable use and productivity of Uganda's forest.
e) To share information nationally, regionally and internationally through active participation in national and international forestry debates and forums.

Core Values and Principles

(a) Non-partisan and autonomous in the conduct of its affairs
(b) Members of UFWG retain their autonomy and independence in the conduct of the activities of the group
(c) Members are bound by the joint decisions of the general assembly
(d) Conform to the highest levels of professionalism and integrity, transparency and accountability in the implementation of the activities

Membership of UFWG

The membership of the Uganda Forestry Working Group shall be comprised of civil society organizations, academic institutions, private sector and individuals who have submitted an expression of interest and have accordingly been accepted by the Steering Committee acting on behalf of the General Assembly;
The UFWG Todate has a membership of 62 comprising of NGOs, CBOs, Private Sector, Associations, networks, Academic and Research Institutions spread all over the country. This membership continues to grow.

Why join UFWG?

Organisations and individuals join the UFWG for the following reasons:

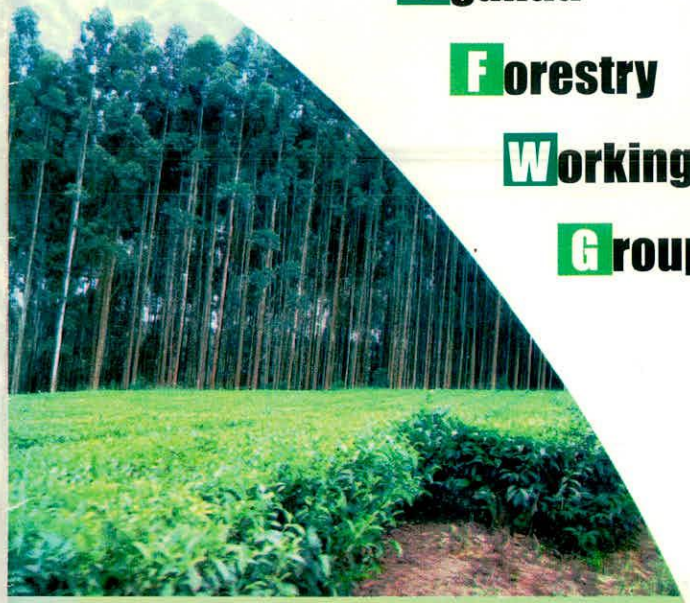
- to contribute to the on-going forest sector reform and development
- to share knowledge and experiences on forestry within and outside Uganda
- to be linked to like-minded organisations to build synergies for information sharing and capacity building
- to be part of a dynamic and focused network of civil society organisations which is involved in advocacy and lobbying on forestry issues

How to apply

Membership application forms can be obtained from the Co-ordinator, UFWG at Environmental Alert.:

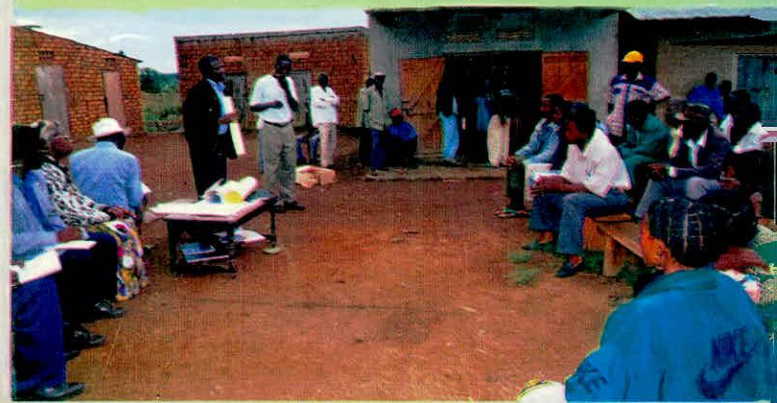
The Co-ordinator
Uganda Forestry Working Group
c/o Environmental Alert, P.O.Box 11259 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: 256-41-510 215 / 510 547, Fax: 256- 41-510 547
envalert@imul.com
envalert@envalert.org
www.envalert.org

Uganda Forestry Working Group



FORESTS AND TREES

OUR FUTURE



What is UFWG?

The Uganda Forestry Working Group (UFWG) is an informal network of civil society organisations, academic and research institutions,engaged in the promotion and development of forestry functions in Uganda. The organisations came together to forge a strategic alliance and to combine efforts, approaches and experiences so as to promote sustainable forestry management in the country.

Background

The UFWG emerged in response to:

- An enabling policy environment that emphasises the role of civil society in sustainable forestry management
- the need to advocate for and influence the on-going forestry sector reform process that culminates into the divestment of the forestry department and establishment of the National Forestry Authority
- the need to monitor the implementation of government policy and legislation on forestry and the national forestry plan
- the need for a platform where forestry stakeholders advocate for sustainable forestry management and share best practices in the sector.

UFWG formation was initiated in 2001 based on stakeholder resolutions during the 1999 National Consultative Conference on Uganda's forests. Further consultations were made in the second National Consultative Conference (2002) with more than 50 civil society organisations. The idea was further endorsed and legitimised in a plenary workshop organised by the interim steering committee at the International Conference Centre in August 2002. The same meeting endorsed the Memorandum of Principles, which provides for the governance, membership, co-ordination and operations of UFWG, and agreed on a work programme for the group.

Today, UFWG boasts of sixty two (62) member organisations and institutions from different parts of the country. It is hosted by Environment Alert, with a Steering Committee comprising of nine members from member organisations..

Structures of the UFWG

The UFWG developed a Memorandum of Principles (MoP) to provide for governance, membership, co-ordination and operation of the UFWG. The MoP provides for the General Assembly comprising all members of the UFWG, a Steering Committee and a Secretariat

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the UFWG. UFWG members meet to formulate broad policies and programmes, revise constitution, if necessary elect executive members of the board and discuss and decide on any matters of interest to the network.

The Steering committee:

The Steering Committee operates upon the instructions of the General Assembly to ensure smooth running of the UFWG. The UFWG Steering Committee has designated Environmental Alert as a host institution to co-ordinate its activities by among other things hosting its Co-ordinator and therefore Secretariat to handle all matters pertaining to the operations of the UFWG. The steering committee is comprised of the following members:

Organisation/Institution
Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Makerere University (FFNC)
Women's Advocacy Network for Development of Agriculture (WANDA)
Uganda Wildlife Society (UWS)
Kamusiime Memorial Rural Development Scheme, Bushenyi (KMRDPS)
Uganda Forestry Association (UFA)
Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Environmental Alert (EA)
Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)

The Secretariat

The Secretariat has a Co-ordinator responsible for implementing the programmes of the UFWG.The Co-ordinator organises communication and information sifting, advocacy and lobbying programmes.

