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### PROPOSED METHODOLOGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING (IFM) IN UGANDA.

**2021**

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## **1. Introduction**

In 2021 conservation minded Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Uganda developed an Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM) strategy to consolidate efforts to monitor Uganda's forests. In a bid to achieve this, a clear methodology for the implementation of IFM was inevitable. The methodology provides guidance on what shall be done by the CSOs and how IFM will be implemented. This methodology has been developed to ensure that all CSOs, mandated agencies, and communities involved in IFM activities use uniform approach for quality assurance and coherence.

This document contains the context, justification, objective of the proposed IFM methodology, addressees, institutional framework for forest monitoring, CSO's choice of intervention method (scope of monitoring and key aspect for verification), actors involved, financial resources, key steps of IFM.

The IFM methodology serves as an instrument that Independent Forest Monitors can use in their monitoring missions. This is in a bid to complement the efforts of the mandated government institutions in monitoring the governance and potential illegal activities happening in both private and public forests in Uganda.

## **2. Context and Justification of an IFM Methodology in Uganda**

A multi- stakeholder approach was used in developing the methodology. This involved holding meetings with the Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade and Tourism, Ministry of Local Government, NFA, and Conservation Based Civil Society Organizations. During the meetings the need to conduct independent forest monitoring was expressed as an alternative lens to curb illegal forest logging in Uganda. Following the expression of the need to have an Independent Forest Monitoring initiative, field missions were conducted in Kasyoha Kitomi Immaramagambo, Bugoma and Kalinju forests. In these missions, interactions were made with forest officers, CBOs, environmental officers, and cultural leaders. It was found out that illegal logging is a critical problem and there were a number of challenges to address the problem. Many of the challenges are related to under staffing of forest monitors by NFA, limited involvement of Civil Society Organizations, governance contests, inadequate enforcement, limited capacity of communities' and collusion of some government officials among others.

It's on the basis of this that Conservation Based Civil Societies sought to develop the Independent Forest Monitoring strategy and methodology. A Consortium of civil society organizations namely NAPE, Network for Sustainable Development, WEMNET, New Horizons, Defenders Protection Initiative, Tree Talk Plus, NAWAD, RUDMEC, Environmental Alert and Friends of Zooka Forest with support of the Government line sectors and agencies, FAO and Field Legality Advisory Group

(FLAG) were engaged in developing the IFM methodology. The CSO's participated in trainings on IFM, drafting the strategy and methodology document and validation of the documents. Thus, the development of the methodology is the product of the input of various stakeholders mentioned above. The purpose of this methodology is to provide coherent framework to guide independent forest monitors in conducting monitoring missions of illegal forest practices. The methodology serves as an instrument that CSO's shall premise their field missions as they conduct monitoring of illegal forest activities in Uganda.

The methodology is to be used by Independent Forest Monitors in Uganda so as to complement efforts of the Ministry of Water and Environment through the Forest Sector Support Department, National Environmental Management Authority and National Forestry Authority in curbing illegal forest logging in Uganda.

### **3. Addressees**

The methodology is directed to Conservation Based Civil Society Organizations that will participate in Independent Forest Monitoring to curb illegal logging in Uganda.

### **4. Objectives of the Methodology.**

- To clearly specify the procedures for undertaking IFM activities in Uganda.
- To provide guidance on the actions to undertake in implementing the IFM.
- To provide framework on how the information from IFM activities will be gathered, processed shared and used for further follow up engagements and litigation.

### **5. Institutional Framework for Forest Monitoring**

The institutional framework that guide the methodology is provided for in the IFM strategy Section.... Page... The Forests authorities shall consider the IFM practitioners/independent forest monitors as allies as opposed to adversaries in curbing illegal logging. The engagement of other actors in forest management is elucidated in Section 54 (c) of the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act (2003).

### **6. CSO's Choice of Intervention Method**

The IFM methodology for Uganda has been adopted as a conservation approach by CSO's, Communities, Forest Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies. Three Main Axes supporting the chosen approach covers:

- 1) Monitoring Theme
- 2) Specific Action to Take

### 3) Key Aspect to Check

#### A FRAMEWORK/ GUIDE OF THE FIELD MISSIONS THAT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN

Monitoring Theme	Action to Take	Key Aspects to Check
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Compliance with the relevant laws, regulations, standards of the licensees and or permit holders</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and comprehend the attendant laws and regulations,</li> <li>• Analyze the requirements and standards provided to licensees and permit holders.</li> <li>• Document the non-compliance and lack of adherence to the standards and requirements provided by the licensing authority.</li> </ul>	<p>Conduct surveillance on the legitimacy of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Source of timber,</li> <li>• The species cut,</li> <li>• The type of technology used</li> <li>• The age of the tree harvested.</li> <li>• Examine the validity of stamps.</li> <li>• Authenticity of the license, track record and credibility of the licensee.</li> <li>• Establish the status of the registration of the licensee</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alternative livelihoods and income generating activities within the forest management</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document the number of activities (permitted and non- permitted) by the local communities in the forest.</li> <li>• Establish the impacts of livelihood activities on forest logging (positive and negative).</li> </ul>	<p>Check out the;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scale of the activity</li> <li>• The authenticity of the permits</li> <li>• The rules governing the livelihood activities</li> <li>• Forms and nature of collusion local communities engage in</li> <li>• Impact assessment of local communities' activities</li> </ul>

<p><b>Participation of women and youth in conservation of forests</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish the extent to which women groups, youth groups contribute to conservation activities such as boundary planting, reforestation, ecofriendly enterprises permitted in the forest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a Social audit of women and youth participating in forest conservation.</li> <li>• Examine how the participation of interest groups in eco- friendly livelihood activities motivates or demotivates them to contribute to conservation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Land tenure issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish the forms of land tenure and how they perpetuate logging.</li> <li>• Finding out how legitimate commercial loggers access the land.</li> <li>• Is the land where logging is carried out authorized for the activity?</li> </ul>	<p>Analyze the policy, legislations, regulations and standards that are flouted</p>
<p><b>• Extractive agro- industrial projects on conservation of forests</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the Impacts of Agro-commercial projects on the forest resource.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the agro industrial projects permitted in certain forests,</li> <li>• Establish the acreage of land use change.</li> <li>• The level of compatibility of the agro ecological projects introduced.</li> <li>• Evaluate the environmental losses</li> <li>• Evaluate the social economic impacts</li> <li>• Establish the mitigation measures in place.</li> <li>• Determine the level of compliance to regulations</li> </ul>

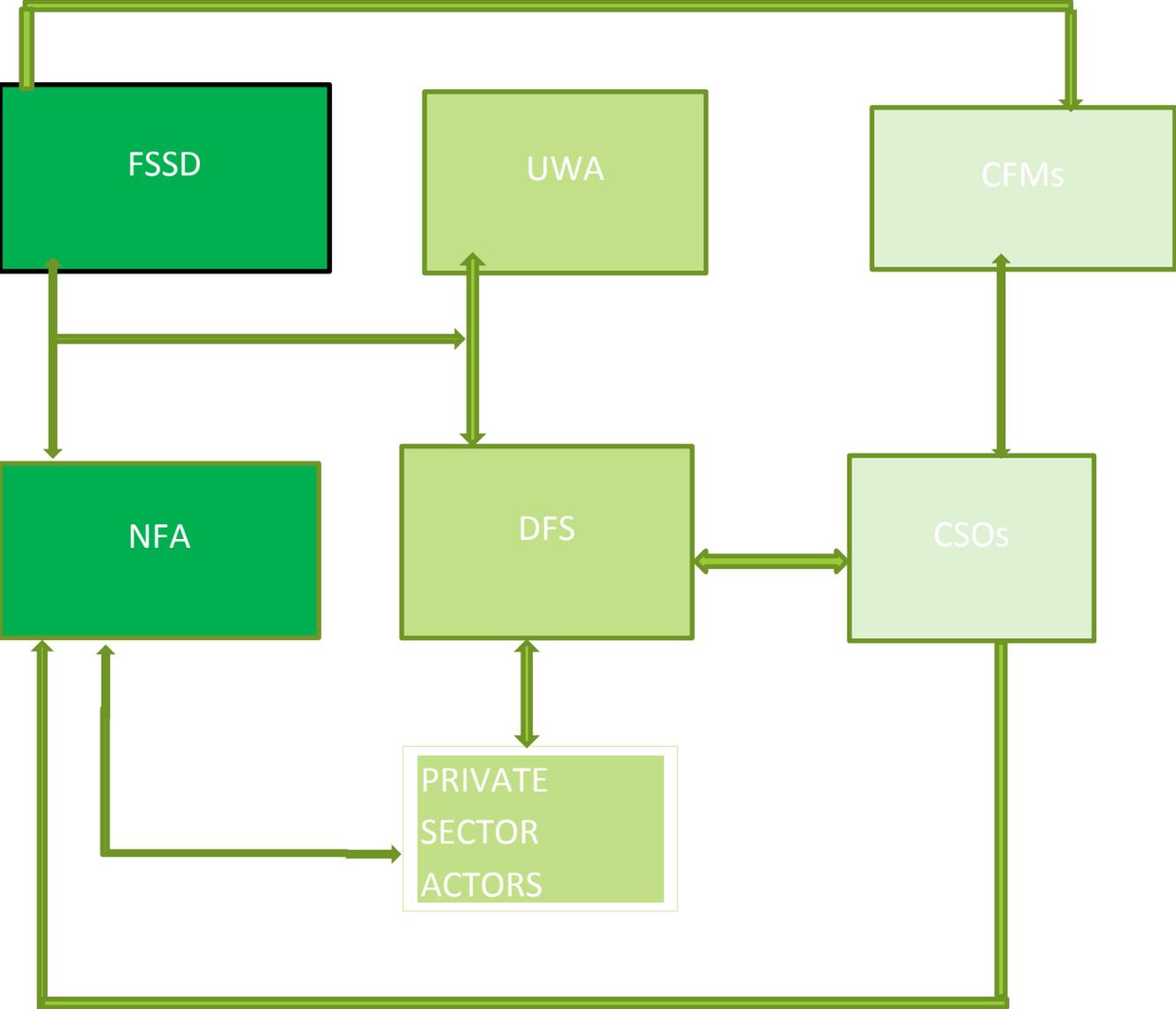
		for which the permits were granted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Enforceability of the current laws.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the effectiveness of the implementation of justice, law and order related to forestry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Litigation practices including arrests, prosecution and conviction and adequacy of the penalties on forest conservation</li> </ul>

**7. Actors, Roles and Interest of Stakeholders**

<b>Actors</b>	<b>Roles</b>	<b>Interest of Stakeholders</b>
<b>National Forestry Authority</b>	Forest policy implementation and management of forests	Conservation of Central forest reserves.
<b>Forest Sector Support Department</b>	Management of forest resources under the ministry of water and environment. Particularly looking at policy formulation.	Management of forest resources.
<b>District Forestry Services</b>	Management of local forest reserves including private forest reserves.	Conservation of private and local forests. Ensure that the harvesting of forests follow the laws and respect the bio cultural conservation.
<b>Collaborative Forestry Management Groups</b>	Local communities' peripheral to forest `working with NFA and DFS in a complementary role.	Protection of the forests and benefit from the non-timber forest products as ecofriendly development projects in the forestry setting.
<b>Civil Society Organizations</b>	Lobbying for transparency and accountability of forest management to ensure	Advocate and independently monitor the forest resource from illegal activities.

	development doesn't override forest conservation.	
<b>Uganda Wildlife Authority</b>	Management of forest reserves in National Parks	Management of forests resource in the National Parks.

**Stakeholder Interaction Flow Diagram**



In the diagram above, the Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD) is concerned with forest policy development and National Forest Authority (NFA) which is concerned with

implementation of the forest policy both are government agencies. They provide policy and implementation oversight respectively to Uganda Wild Life Authority (UWA), District Forest Services (DFS) and the Private Sector who have been entrusted with forests directly under their management. The FSSD through the NFA collaborates directly with the Collaborative Forest Management Groups (CFM'S) and CSO'S to complement efforts of government agencies to conserve Uganda's forests. In the IFM methodology, the CSO's and the CFM's serve as independent monitors who in turn provide feedback to the mandated government agencies for further follow up interventions to curb illegal logging in Uganda. Worth noting, is the role of National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), which plays an over sight role in the management of Uganda's environment.

## **8. Financial resources**

A resource mobilization strategy will be developed to help in long term fundraising for the monitoring of illegal activities affecting forest conservation in this era of climate change. Especially when the country is exploring oil and gas, developing oil infrastructure such as roads pipelines, airport which all come with emission of greenhouse gases. All this will require forests to sequester them.

## **9. Key steps for Independent Forest Monitoring:**

The independent monitoring missions shall follow a number of steps provided as follows;

### **A- Internal Procedures Guiding the Implementation Of IFM**

- 1- Partnering with communities and CSOs in the conservation area / locality to be monitored.  
Working closely with organization which have established robust monitoring system
- 2- Forming team of monitors which should be comprised of lawyer, social worker.  
Environmentalist, researcher, community representative and others depending on the nature of the mission.
- 3- Making available specific equipment's and tools before going for the mission
- 4- Capacity building in IFM techniques ( i.e manipulation of tools, investigation, reporting, legal analysis, map reading)

### **B- Organizing and Conducting IFM Field Missions**

- 1- IFM mission programming (clearly specify the objectives of the mission)
- 2- Preparing missions to forest sites: Secure permissions and authorization, human resource mobilization, arrangement of transport facilities, necessary equipment among others.

3- Consider the security measures. There is need to take precautions before setting off for the field work. Make adequate preparations before setting off i.e. inform your lawyers, friends, like minded CSOs among others for easy follow up in case on any problem.

4- Collecting, securing and analyzing data; Data should be properly analyzed, packaged and presented professionally to the target audience.

5-Organising the results in an appropriate writing format as indicated in the annex of this document.

6- Sharing the results with target groups and large public: for effective and logical follow up on the recommendations made by the mission team.

## **10. Conclusion**

The IFM methodology for Independent Forest Monitors is a necessary guide for monitoring illegal forest activities in Uganda in this period when forests are fast disappearing and posing a greater threat to climatic change and its impacts. The mandated forest monitoring institutions cannot manage the forest estate alone, but with additional support from the civil society and communities, forests in Uganda can be better managed. The proper implementation of the strategy along with this methodology will curb illegal logging hence increasing the forest coverage and at the same time address the likely impacts of climate change.

## **ANNEX 1**

### **THE FORMAT FOR WRITING THE MISSION REPORT.**

**The format shall cover the mission report shall be comprised of the following;**

1. The executive summary. The executive summary is supposed to be utmost one page and it is supposed to be a summary of everything that is in the report.
2. Context of the mission
3. The objectives of the mission
4. The methodology
5. Overview
6. Independent forest monitoring-IFM field mission key findings.
7. Challenges encountered during the mission.
8. Issues arising
9. Conclusion and recommendations by the field mission.
10. Annexes will also constitute photos, links to videos and documents