

Development of National Strategy on Integrated Forest Landscape Restoration in Uganda

National Capacity Building and Consultation Workshop

- **Date:** September 16th to 19th, 2025
- **Venue:** Source of Nile Hotel, Uganda
- **Participants:** 40 – from government, NGO, Academia, development partners and UN agencies

Introduction

Uganda has suffered from significant loss of its forests in the last 3 or so decades. Between 1990 and 2005, there was 26.3% decline in forest cover in Uganda from 4,924,000 ha to 1,297,000 ha. According to the REDD+ Strategy (2021) between 2000 to 2015 an estimate 775, 069 ha of natural forest was lost. According to a report, deforestation and forest degradation have occurred mostly in northern moist, southwest rangeland and western mid altitude landscapes of Uganda in the last 10 years mainly due to anthropogenic factors, weak law enforcement and inadequate funding to the natural resources sector. According to the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), Uganda has a total of 8,079,622ha of land with opportunities for forest landscape restoration.

To address these challenges and implement international commitments such as the Bonn Challenge and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, Uganda is planning to develop a National Integrated Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy (NIFLRS) for the period 2025-2050. This strategy will serve as a useful reference for managers in decision-making with national programs to restore degraded forests and landscapes, while enhancing resilience to climate change, conserving biodiversity and improving the livelihoods of communities living near, or dependent on, forests. With the goal of restoring degraded forests, through afforestation, agroforestry and sustainable land use projects, the strategy will focus on restoring severely degraded forest areas. Applying sustainable forest management measures, the strategy will help mitigate the negative impacts of climate change, such as floods and droughts. Overall, it aims to enhance resilience to climate change. The strategy will also aim to protect rare species of flora and fauna, along with important ecosystems to maintain the natural balance. In addition, the strategy will create sustainable economic opportunities for forest-dependent communities through carbon credit sales programs and other economic activities. To improve the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities. In addition, the strategy prioritizes restoration areas based on biotic and abiotic factors, including the extent of forest degradation, tree cover, natural hazard risk, and socio-economic factors.

The secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) has been implementing a project ***“Turning the tide on deforestation-Building partnerships to combat intensifying impacts of climate change, forest fires and zoonotic diseases”*** in Uganda. The project is funded by the Development Account of the United Nations. The project aims to support the country in integrated forest landscape restoration by developing a national forest restoration strategy and action plan and a framework for attracting public and private sector investments in forest landscape restoration. Specifically, outcome 1 of the project focuses on strengthening the capacity to design, develop and implement integrated forest landscape restoration plans by identifying

and removing drivers of deforestation, combating intensifying impacts of climate change and forest fires, recovery and building back better from the impacts of zoonotic diseases, and enhancing actions to increase economic, social and environmental contribution of forests and thus ultimately increase contribution of forests to SDGs.

In this regard, a national consultant has been closely working with the stakeholders under the supervision of UNFF secretariat and National Forest Authority of Uganda to develop a national strategy and action plan for Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in Uganda for 2025 to 2050 together with policy recommendations and a financing strategy. The national consultant has prepared the preliminary draft IFRL based on the available data and information and consultations with stakeholders. The draft strategies need to be further consulted and validated by the stakeholders and the government. In this regard, UNFF secretariat is planning to organize a 4-day long capacity building and consultation workshop in Uganda in collaboration with the National Forest Authority (NFA) of Uganda.

Objectives

- To build the capacity of the stakeholders on IFLR planning and implementation in Uganda
- To discuss and finalize the national strategy on Integrated Forest Landscape Restoration in Uganda
- To discuss and develop roadmap for the implementation of the IFLR national strategy including financing mechanism and strategy

Preliminary Agenda

Day	Time	Activities	Responsibilities
Day 1	8.30-10.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration • Opening remarks by Govt of Uganda, UNRC, UNFF, • Introduction of participants • Collection of expectations • Tea Coffee 	NFA, UNFFS
	10.00-12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of IFLR including concept, guiding principles, criteria for the successful restoration, • Policy and enabling environments for successful IFLR 	Presentation (Int Consultant, UNFFS)
	12.00-1.00	Lunch	
	1.00-5.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of project cycle • IFLR planning process – including situation analysis, problem analysis, development of result framework etc • Tea and coffee break in between 	Presentation and group discussion (int consultant and UNFFS)

Day 2	9.00-12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of key interventions for IFLR – including criteria for selection of key interventions • Implementation process of the interventions • Tea and coffee in between 	Presentation and group discussion (int consultant and UNFFS)
	12.00-1.00	Lunch	
	1.00-5.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation approaches of the selected interventions including roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders • Introduction of landscape approach for integrated IFLR • Introduction of the community-based approach • Tea and coffee in between 	Presentation and group discussion (int consultant and UNFFS)
Day 3	9.00-12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the IFLR national strategy including – existing situations, priority landscape, selected interventions, implementation approach (several presentations) • Tea and Coffee 	National Consultant
	12.00-1.00	Lunch	
	1.00-5.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group discussion and presentation of • Collection of feedback and input to improve the strategy 	National Consultant
Day 4	9.00-12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Financing strategy to implement the IFLR strategy • Group discussion to provide feedback and input on the financing strategy • Plenary discussion 	
	12.00-1.00	Lunch	
	1.00-5.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of outcomes of group discussion • Plenary discussion to finalize and validate the strategy • Discussion on way forward for the implementation of financing strategy 	

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