

# Just forest governance – for REDD, for sanity

Progress made by the Forest Governance Learning Group



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International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

2011

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# Introduction to the Forest Governance Learning Group

The Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) is an informal alliance of in-country teams and international partners, currently active in seven African and three Asian countries, facilitated by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). It aims to connect those marginalised from forest governance to those controlling it, and to help both do things better. A shared belief motivates the Group: that forestry can contribute to the eradication of poverty and to sustainability, but only with good forest governance – the right leadership, institutions, policy decisions and practical systems. FGLG became firmly established in 2003 and in subsequent years had the benefit of financial support from the UK and Dutch governments and the European Commission (EC). Since 2009, a 5-year phase of work has been underway with finance from the EC and the UK government.

In each country there are four interconnected parts to the work:

- Team of 'governance-connected' individuals from a mix of agencies with experience and ideas
- Policy work on forest livelihood problems due to people being marginalised from decisions
- Development of practical guidance and tools for making progress
- Creating and taking opportunities to make governance improvements

FGLG country teams are well networked, motivated and targeted in their approach – each has a communication strategy within its work plan, and these are made publicly available on the web. Country teams, backed by IIED and international partners, carry out focused studies, learning and training events, network building, supported uptake of governance tools, and taking direct opportunities for governance reform. Inter-country capacity-building work and engagement with key international policy processes aims to achieve creative transfers of insight from one location to another, and to install findings in international policy.

The main partners involved in FGLG, in addition to IIED, are:

- Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia-Pacific (RECOFTC) – backstops the work in Asia and convenes the team in Vietnam
- Civic Response – convenes the team in Ghana
- Forestry South Africa – convenes the team in South Africa
- Centro de Integridade Pública – convenes the team in Mozambique
- Centre for Development Management – convenes the team in Malawi
- Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment – convenes the team in Uganda
- NESDA-CA and the African Model Forests Network – convene the team in Cameroon
- Enviro Legal Defence Firm – convenes the team in India
- Inspirit – convenes the team in Indonesia
- Tanzania Natural Resources Forum – convenes the team in Tanzania

Since FGLG began it has produced:

- 10 country teams engaged in forest governance improvements in Ghana, Cameroon, Uganda, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Indonesia, India and Vietnam
- 7 major international learning events focused on impacts achieved, lessons learned and plans ahead, involving participants from all the teams and other players
- 100+ policy research outputs and tools
- 120+ press, TV and radio advocacy outputs – and a set of films on '*Justice in the forests*'
- 40+ international organisations and forums engaged with to achieve capacity-building, transfers of insight between locations, and to install findings in international policy
- An independent evaluation, which concluded that FGLG has had major impacts: a good balance struck – targets hit whilst fostering processes, learning and innovation; international organisations influenced; strong governance impact with local effects in Uganda, Ghana, South Africa, Indonesia and India and conditions for achieving impact in Mozambique, Malawi and Vietnam.

**The website for FGLG, where news, reports, films and plans can be found, is: [www.iied.org/fglg](http://www.iied.org/fglg)**

# Executive Summary

## An alliance with bite

**In ten forest hotspot countries across Africa and Asia, a novel alliance – the IIED-steered Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) – has been working since 2003 on ways to shift power over forests towards those who enable and pursue sustainable forest-linked livelihoods. Teams in each of these countries work to connect people marginalised from forest governance to those controlling it, and push for better decisions. They have developed practical tactics for securing safe space, sparking dialogue, building constituencies, wielding evidence and interacting politically. FGLG has produced films about tackling forest governance issues that work locally and internationally, as well as local theatre pieces, comics, policy briefs and targeted opinion pieces.**

An independent review of FGLG was commissioned in 2009 to find out the extent of its impact and trace the path between the teams' work and positive changes that have occurred. The results showed that the innovative tactics and broad networks the teams have cultivated have led to significant and widespread outcomes. This impact continues in 2010 – the Cameroon team revised a crucial government order in favour of local communities; the India team convinced high-level players that the Forest Rights Act can be made to work; and the Tanzania team has installed key principles of rights and benefit sharing in emerging REDD+ strategies.

This report aims to capture the current thinking and plans of FGLG. It also highlights some of the key impacts of FGLG work since early 2010 and puts a particular focus on the intersection of REDD+ and forest governance issues. It reports and draws on the findings of the seventh international learning event of the FGLG which took place in Namaacha, in the Maputo District of Mozambique in December 2010.

## Building key bridges, not quick fixes, on REDD+

Most FGLG teams have got engaged in thinking and planning for REDD. For example, in Indonesia, Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Vietnam – where REDD strategies are well advanced – they report over-hasty, formulaic and barely credible plans that could do more harm than good. The teams have experienced fast-developing national REDD strategies that focus on how to count and monitor carbon rather than how to bring about the major policy and capacity changes needed to be 'ready' for REDD. All are based on the idea that with enough money over two to four years, a top-down, government-led process will improve governance and give forest-based practitioners what they need to guarantee emissions reductions and qualify for REDD payments.

FGLG teams are increasingly insistent that REDD strategies must stop avoiding what has been painfully learnt about the importance of rights, capacity, and motivation for good forest management and livelihoods. The need to verify emission reductions at national level does not mean that national governments must control the actions to deliver them. Quite the opposite – REDD must be locally controlled. Indeed, the fixation on carbon storage must be abandoned at strategy level – we will not reduce emissions by simply planning actions focused on the emissions themselves. But we can reduce them by planning to improve forest management and people's livelihoods from the land. So, for example, we must include farming in REDD. Above all we must not allow the urgency, grand ambition and big money in REDD to create large-scale quick fixes – REDD must be carefully built from the ground up.

We hope to continue to provoke others by developing more models, guidance, tactics and steps on what locally controlled REDD would look like; how strategy processes can connect with reality and stimulate, rather than stymie, capacity; and how monitoring and accountability in governance can be hard-wired into REDD. REDD is far from being a lost cause – it remains forestry's best chance ever. But it needs turning on its head if this massive opportunity is to be seized to get things right.

## Country team strategies, impacts in 2010, and actions ongoing in 2011

### ***Cameroon – opportunities seized for increasing local benefits from forests***

FGLG-Cameroon, which is called GREG-Forêts or *Groupe de Réflexion et d'Etude sur la Gouvernance des Forêts*, involves over 20 individuals from a strong mix of institutions and has emerged as a team capable of effectively shaping action based on experiential learning on key forest governance issues in Cameroon.

Over the past year, GREG-Forêts has achieved considerable impact. It has broadened understanding and mobilised action for the development of key enabling decisions for both very small and small forest enterprises. Through its members, it contributed strongly to the Members of Parliament platform on possible actions in mitigating climate change in Addis Abba that in turn influenced the African position that was taken to Cancún. GREG-Forêts was also able to input further to the ongoing revision of the 1994 forestry code, and to seize an important opportunity to suggest substantial revisions to a new government Order on revenue management that should strengthen community forestry in the country.

In 2011, GREG-Forêts will aim to: press home the advantage developed on enabling policy for small forest enterprises; explore further the gap between legitimacy and legality for a selected set of forest products and actors; monitor and develop recognition of key issues and opportunities in the evolution and implementation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement; finalise the institutional map of climate change and REDD actors in Cameroon; and plan for a suite of training modules and tools on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and the governance of REDD+.

### ***Ghana – collusion and collision of top down and bottom up governance reform approaches***

In its 2010-2013 work plan, FGLG-Ghana explores a range of synergies and dissonance between top-down donor-driven programmes – such as the Natural Resources, Environment and Governance (NREG) programme, the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), National Forest Programme, Forest Investment Program (FIP) and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) – and more bottom-up civil-society-driven governance reform strategies – such as the Governance Initiative for Rights and Accountability in Forest Management (GIRAF) and projects on Making Forests Transparent and Rights, Resources and the Constitution.

FGLG-Ghana has helped develop a better understanding in civil society on REDD+ challenges and financing, and has engaged effectively with the key ministry on VPA and REDD. With REDD's arrival (in the shape of the FCPF and FIP) effectively drawing all attention away from the long-negotiated NREG – the team recognised that donor and government departmental coherence does not last long, and has tried to develop suitable tactics. FGLG-Ghana and its convening agency Civic Response have tried to push briefings and submissions to key players where opportunities arise. The team has also worked hard to gain more coherence amongst policy and law reform initiatives, and to strengthen district-level forest forums, while the government has been propping up a rather ill-considered and unrepresentative approach to a national level forum.

In 2011, FGLG-Ghana aims to produce policy briefs targeting governance reform players on issues such as: FLEGT meets REDD; local institutional capacity and REDD in Ghana; tenure and rights in the face of new forest investments; and multiple donor initiatives in the forest sector and forest governance reform. In each case the team aims to identify where the capacity and preparedness to take action lies and who takes the next steps, and how commitment to building momentum in each issue will be generated.

### ***India – stepping up high-level engagement on forest rights***

India-FGLG is focused on: strengthening community forest management through recognition of rights; enabling community-based institutions to run NTFP enterprises; tackling the contradiction of huge imports despite large scale plantations; India's REDD readiness; and supporting better decision-making on bioenergy development strategies.

Over the last year, the team's research on how to make the Forest Rights Act (FRA) work was translated into submissions to a high level committee on the status of FRA implementation, and to work in the media. The team also lobbied, apparently successfully, for the establishment of a cell dedicated to non-timber forest products in the ministry, and engaged with a high-profile process on forests and left-wing extremism. It hosted web discussions on key legislation – converting the results of this and other work into several policy briefs, has begun to promote a stance on REDD+ and explored how this might be furthered through its engagement at high levels with the new 'National Mission for a Green India'. The team has invested in an active website, gaining a lot of interest, webinars and media work - the Times of India environmental correspondent has become closely linked to the team.

In 2011, FGLG-India will continue to develop the evidence base and policy briefs on: implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA); community forest management and non-timber forest products in the context of the FRA, the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, and REDD; and bioenergy issues. The team also aims to produce a report highlighting the investment made in tree plantations, their current status and level of legitimate forest production in India, and the governance issues arising. It also intends to help develop a platform for stakeholders to engage on REDD, and to explore the links between this and the Green India mission.

### ***Indonesia – REDD for community-based forest management***

Community-based forest management is at the heart of FGLG-Indonesia. In the fast-moving context of REDD+, the team is working to ensure that REDD+ policies and practice strengthen good forest governance and guarantee the rights of local communities. FGLG Indonesia's work plan focuses on the following outputs by 2013: national REDD+ strategy, with credible components on good forest governance; FGLG Indonesia 'alumni' effectively engaged in implementing REDD+ strategy; findings and lessons from experience relevant to REDD+ and governance taken up by stakeholders in REDD+ initiatives; and analysis of gaps and ways forward in the implementation of REDD+.

FGLG-Indonesia's main asset is its 'alumni' – an increasingly effective group of forest governance champions developed through membership over the years. The team has worked to help stakeholders clarify what is and is not part of REDD+ and the conditions needed. Members have been critiquing the very tight timetable allowed for an extensive REDD programme, for which payments are due to be made by January 2014. FGLG-Indonesia has been offering appropriate techniques at national and local level in this fast-track decision-making process. The team has also developed a local-level forum on low impact logging and REDD+ to take biodiversity into account, and connected this to the national group.

In 2011, the team is aiming to: prepare a policy brief on key messages on governance for REDD+; participate in technical and stakeholder meetings on REDD+ national strategy; and generate and take opportunities to install findings on sustainable forest management approaches and initial lessons from REDD+ experience in national and local REDD+ implementation processes.



*Ratna Akiefnawati from ICRAF, Indonesia plants a tree in Namaacha, Mozambique. Photo by Leianne Rolington*

### ***Malawi – following through on sustainable charcoal options***

FGLG-Malawi's 2010-2013 framework plan aims to: pilot the formalisation at district level of the community bylaws developed in Ntcheu, and use film and other media products to create greater awareness of community forest management rights and enterprise rights. It also aims to analyse the timber value chains for newly established community forest enterprises, carry out a needs assessment and develop advocacy work on the business environment for these enterprises. Further priorities are to: secure government commitment to sustainable charcoal production; facilitate the spread of legal licensing of charcoal by supporting pilot projects; and promote procurement policies for only buying sustainable license charcoal. Finally, the team aims to contribute to the development of effective REDD and biofuel strategies.

In 2010, the team worked on the ground with charcoal communities to assess their needs. It also hosted FGLG-Mozambique to study methods of researching charcoal supply and value chains. The team met often with high-level government officials, and engaged with the Ministry of Energy to develop a new biomass energy strategy. On REDD, the team has been working on information to stimulate REDD strategy thinking, initiating various discussions on a national REDD strategy and developing a funding proposal that is looking very promising.

In 2011, the FGLG-Malawi team is focused on: catalysing a national working group on REDD and attracting a REDD donor; a biofuels study and briefing paper assessing evidence for impacts of biofuel development on the poor; supporting development of the Millennium Challenge Corporation project on charcoal, plus a proposal for sustainable charcoal procurement; and work to ensure the Forest Management Fund is put in place and is functional.

### ***Mozambique – serious evidence and funny comics on forest transparency***

In the period 2009-2013, FGLG-Mozambique is focusing on: evaluation of the efficacy of forest sector legislation; interventions concerning climate change adaptation and contributions to the national REDD strategy; assessment of the production, supply and markets for charcoal and fuel wood; capacity building courses with the national media and other interest groups; and strengthening a civil society forum dedicated to the forest sector in Mozambique.

In 2010, FGLG-Mozambique put much effort into communications, with the 'stripped green' comic strip, production of pamphlets and posters with 'Amigos da Floresta', and a photographic initiative on biofuels and land. The team produced a book on '20 steps to sustainability', which looks at links between the current forest situation and climate change. The team continues to work with initiatives such as Growing Forest Partnerships, REDD strategy development and the forestry focus of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. Team members have seized a range of opportunities to feed findings into discussions on forests and climate, and on charcoal and fuelwood issues in particular.

FGLG-Mozambique's work in 2011 is focused on advocacy, public education, publication and networking on five issues: a country-wide study on charcoal production, supply and consumption based on an ongoing learning exchange with the Malawi team; an evaluation of the implementation of the mechanism by which 20 per cent of forest revenue is supposed to return to local communities; an assessment of major forest plantation companies operating in Mozambique in terms of social justice, reforestation policies and practices, and the carbon trade; a survey of coverage of the media on the theme of land and forests; and an analysis on the status of environmental governance sectors of environment, lands and forests.

### ***South Africa – small forest enterprise governance in land reform and industrial policy***

FGLG-South Africa is focused on maximising the potential for small and medium forest enterprises (SMFEs) through forest governance interventions. It aims to: maximise the potential of SMFEs in forest-based climate strategies; advance land reform and post-settlement processes for the beneficiaries' communities receiving parcels of land and forest assets; and advance pro-poor forestry interventions in the forest sector, particularly through SMFEs. The team works at provincial level – particularly in KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape Provinces – and at national level.

An evolving national industrial policy action plan has been a major focus this year – the team has been networking with high-level decision-makers on this to help shape its integral forestry plan and to promote the

potential of this plan to improve forest governance. The team has also continued its work to help develop a national SMFE strategy and a potential SMFE support fund. Through its own members, the team has also facilitated support to community SMFEs to the tune of 30 million Rand (US\$ 4.5 million). A strong focus on incorporating good forestry practice in post-settlement land reform is also in the offing, with two active new team members from the Department of Land Reform.

In 2011, the team expects to: monitor implementation of the National Industrial Policy Action Plan and the SMFE strategy; provide inputs to SMFE sustainable forest management standard development; provide inputs into development of forest sector climate change response strategy; and to develop a 'policy intelligence tool'.

### ***Tanzania – rights, small forest enterprise and REDD***

Having started up in 2010, FGLG-Tanzania has really found its feet in 2011. Its framework plan to 2013 concentrates on two main outputs: forest rights and small forest enterprise; and REDD. The team contributed to a detailed evidence-based study, commissioned by the government, to assess the difference between the timber exported from Tanzania and that imported into China. The Mama Misitu forest governance awareness campaign picked up on the challenges revealed by this research and worked to show government the level of leakage involved, and to show government and communities how to pursue legal trade. The team made one documentary film about the issues and is working on another.

On REDD, the team has been working out how best to contribute to establish effective connection between the local and the national, addressing the common problems and challenges. As an increasingly strong 'governance arm' of the Tanzania Forest Working Group, it has been tackling REDD governance issues and stepping up its interactions with government, the private sector and universities.

In 2011, FGLG-Tanzania is focused on further work on cross-border timber and the drivers and outcomes of timber trade between East Africa and China. It expects to develop further films, policy briefs, media outreach opportunities and comics. On REDD, the team aims to track and network on governance issues amongst the big REDD projects, as well as the smaller and alternative REDD pilots and voluntary carbon projects, to look at the implications of illegal timber trade for REDD and to produce related briefs and presentations.

### ***Uganda – critiquing key institutions without bringing them down***

FGLG-Uganda has a strong track-record. In particular, the team was influential in shaping the National Development Plan and the National Land Policy, and in the campaign against degazettment of Mabira and Kalangala forests, including legal challenge in courts of law. FGLG-Uganda's 2010-2013 framework plan builds on this with action to: increase the voices of local communities in forestry decision-making processes; promote small forest enterprises that benefit local communities; track and publicise illegal forest activities; and advocate for an inclusive and transparent legal and institutional framework for REDD and other climate change initiatives.

The team undertook research into key barriers to progress in the forestry sector and wrote a policy memorandum to the cabinet on land rights of ethnic forest communities. Its analysis and report on forest concessions – 'Trouble in the forests' – was taken up actively in the media. This and other work by the team informed investigations by the Auditor General and Attorney General, resulting in a change of leadership in the National Forest Authority. This led the team to recognise the power of work that focuses on a specific issue, but also that it must be careful to help safeguard critical functions of institutions that currently appear fragile. This effort continues through the team's involvement in the national REDD working group and the land policy working group, its work with political party leaders, and its intentions to meet with the president.

In 2011, the team expects to: analyse implications of current and proposed scenarios and institutional framework for REDD implementation in Uganda; develop a policy briefing paper on alternative models for benefit sharing in forestry, to ensure community participation and benefit; finalise the study on illegal timber trade and initiate a public / media campaign (that also reaches rural audiences); review previous studies and existing regulatory framework for charcoal burning and implications for forestry and trade; and promote corporate social responsibility in the oil and gas industry related to forest and biodiversity conservation in the Albertine Graben in Uganda (and bordering countries).

## ***Vietnam – community title at the heart of prospects for FLEGT and REDD***

In 2010, FGLG Vietnam aimed to: promote allocation of forest title to local communities; engage in national FLEGT processes; participate in REDD networks and national REDD programme development; and establish and strengthen links with other REDD-related initiatives in Vietnam. Much effort was put into a potential model case to show how forest titles could be transferred to communities, working in Pho Trach village in Thua Thien Hue province, and negotiations there continue. FLEGT negotiations started in late 2010 and the FGLG-Vietnam team has begun engaging on the need to put local communities at the centre of the discussions on forest governance and trade.

FGLG-Vietnam team members have been actively participating in different REDD and climate change networks, notably the national REDDnet and REDD technical working groups formed by the government. They have contributed to the development of the national REDD programme and preparation of Vietnam's Readiness Preparation Proposal. The convener of the team is technical advisor on REDD to the network of Vietnamese NGOs working on climate change, and is also the coordinator, for mitigation issues, of the alliance of international NGOs working in Vietnam – the Climate Change Working Group. Team members have also been involved in evaluation and verification of processes of Free, Prior and Informed Consent under the UN-REDD programme in Vietnam, in REDD-related capacity building activities for state and non-state actors, and in a study on REDD-compliant benefit distribution systems for Vietnam and a similar study for Laos.

In 2011, FGLG-Vietnam aims to: develop and test an assessment tool for allocation of forest rights in Dak Lak and Thua Thien Hue Provinces; further engage in FLEGT processes; coordinate sharing of REDD information with the Climate Change Working Group and members of the Vietnam NGO Climate Change network; and develop and publish a handbook on climate change for community members.

## **Forest justice at the movies**

'*Justice in the forests*' is the title of a set of films launched in 2011 about the issues tackled by FGLG. These films give extraordinary insight into some of the toughest challenges facing both forests and people and some of the governance-based solutions that could turn this around. Made by IIED and an independent filmmaker, Dominic Elliot, and involving many in the FGLG network, these films have been widely viewed online, in a range of international meetings and in national TV screenings in several countries.

'*Tackling forest governance: how small groups can have a big impact*' is the title of the first short film that looks at the work of FGLG across the countries, and the tactics used to address country-specific issues. '*Justice in the forests*' is a longer 20-minute film, the overview of the series, giving an insight into common trials and tribulations faced across forest nations, and some solutions. There are also four films looking at the particular issues faced in Ghana, Uganda, Vietnam and Malawi. Through in-depth investigation of the local issues of illegal chainsaw logging, a government forest takeover, tenure rights and issues of charcoal respectively, these films are about taking positive action based on concrete understanding and showing, ultimately, how local people are at the heart of preserving the forests.

## **Exchanges and toolkits**

Internationally, FGLG has put emphasis on some cross-country exchanges in the last year. The Malawi-Mozambique joint work on the charcoal trade, described above, has created a partnership that will likely prove useful in establishing approaches that, rather than criminalising but failing to influence this large-scale trade, explore better woodland and value chain management options. FGLG has also further strengthened its links in East Africa and China on forest governance issues, with a view to establish a platform in the coming year that can tackle some Africa-China forest trade issues. FGLG Asia teams meanwhile held an expert consultation on REDD and community forest management, mapping out a very strong agenda and calling for REDD protagonists to focus on building on the foundations of community forestry.

IIED is also steering for FGLG an initiative with FAO to develop a practical guide for stakeholders who aim to improve the way governance affects tenure, so that forestry is more sustainable and contributes more

to livelihoods. This aims to help stakeholders respond to the 'Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests' that governments are negotiating with the organisational support of FAO during 2011. Drawing on principles and processes in governance, tenure and forests that have been the focus of major recent initiatives and consensus, the guide will highlight key opportunities and roles of different stakeholders. A substantial toolkit – of tools, tactical processes and approaches – will be an integral part of the guide, and this will provide sufficient information on each tool for users to choose which to use, to find out more and to adapt it for their own purposes.

## REDD+ in an 'international year' – a big chance for better forest governance

Opportunities and dilemmas in REDD+ have become central concerns for most FGLG country teams, as processes to establish and pursue national strategies gain strength. On top of this, 2011 is the United Nations International Year of Forests – and with the secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests and others doing a great job in bringing attention to forest issues, there are great opportunities for practical thinking on forest governance to take a turn in the spotlight.

FGLG is trying to make its research, tools and capability count. It is trying to show how much greater attention can be given to the key role that forest-owner families and communities play in maintaining forests, and to strengthening their capacity to play that role. This means giving them commercial rights over timber, non-timber forest products, carbon and other ecosystem services, based on secure tenure, with freedom of association and access to markets, technology and finance. FGLG is pushing for broader recognition of the essential role of this locally controlled forestry, and is joining with others – in-country, and internationally linked to initiatives like *Growing Forest Partnerships* and *Forest Connect*. It is through the work of such alliances that the core building blocks of better forest decision-making – rights and the capabilities to exercise them – might finally be put together, in the right places, by the right people.

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# 1 Exciting times for forest governance and FGLG

## Opportunities for change

**Forest governance is a critical issue for millions of people around the world. Yet, despite the efforts of many, good forest management is not yet mainstream and local people remain marginalised. Motivating the Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) is the belief that sufficient national and international opportunities can be seized to turn this situation around.**

New opportunities galvanize the FGLG to innovate; finding new angles and methods to have impact. Problems may yet present opportunities. For example, at national and international level there is a clash of needs between forests and food, yet this could be a chance to better integrate food needs with forest management.

In terms of investment, the landscape is fast-changing. Over the last twenty years, world trade has quadrupled in its volume and South-South trade has increased tenfold. Developing countries currently hold around four trillion dollars in reserves, which is one and a half times what the rich countries hold. And the situation is changing fast: this year or the next, China will become Africa's number one trading partner.

Major forestry initiatives are meanwhile proliferating. FLEGT (the EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) is clamping down on illegal logging, with deepening effect, and it continues to spread further. Debates over REDD are conceiving ways to incentivise keeping forests standing, by transferring resources to people and places who can sustainably and reliably put those protections in place. REDD has stirred up interest in forests like never before and is likely to be forestry's biggest ever chance to put things right. Potentially, there is a great deal of money that needs to get into the right hands. At the more local level, there is movement towards connecting local people and large investors. And deliberations continue over FPIC (Free, Prior and Informed Consent) – who has rights, and who is deciding what those rights are?

Across these issues, there is a common thread emerging: if forestry is going to be a useful, well-managed process locally, control of the process has to sit in local hands. The strength of the central notion of investing in locally controlled forestry is growing apace and FGLG is well placed to help make it a tangible reality.

## Becoming the driving force

At the root of FGLG's work is the idea that we need to seek out the evidence and get to the truth of the matter. And then to do almost whatever it takes with that evidence to effect the necessary change – the boundaries are yet to be discovered. Sometimes this can be catalytic and ground-breaking campaign work, and sometimes this means just making hard arguments over time and in the right places.

Following the 2008 learning event in Malawi, a joint paper by IIED and FGLG country team convenors identified five tactical approaches for working effectively<sup>1</sup>:

- securing safe space
- provoking dialogue
- building constituencies
- wielding information
- interacting politically

An independent evaluation of FGLG in 2009 found that these tactics have had tangible impact, resulting in change in forest governance and livelihoods at the local level. Modest in size and resources, this initiative is able to effect change because the teams have a clear sight of their objectives and they have been pretty

<sup>1</sup> The resulting briefing paper, 'Just forest governance: how small learning groups can have a big impact', can be downloaded at <http://pubs.iied.org/17070IIED.html>

flexible about how they go about reaching them. Well-connected and inspirational convenors and members effect the critical role of motivating people around them to be a part of this initiative and drive change.<sup>2</sup>

In this second phase of the project, which started in 2009, FGLG took aim at four areas:

- improving ways in which people can build their rights;
- not only legal, but locally legitimate products and trade;
- REDD and climate-linked forest actions;
- maximising the effect we can have with ten very different creative teams, meeting and learning when we can.

The run up to 2013 when current support for FGLG ends, is bounded by an ambitious set of plans, both long-term, broad thinking, and specific one-year plans. Links have been growing and strengthening between and beyond teams, likely changing the way in which we will work in the future. And despite the broad range of work being carried out, a series of cross-cutting themes have emerged from FGLG teams:

There are **ways of working**, common across teams, that contribute to the tactical armoury:

- Actively ensuring different levels and types of stakeholders join the FGLG team, in order to provide a practical and credible platform to tackle policy issues.
- Mentoring and recruiting further champions to spread the message of FGLG.
- Focusing on models and key examples as a foundation for learning.
- Maintaining flexibility and opportunism within teams.
- Keeping fitness and positioning of teams to be the right people at the right time is changeable; planning for this and finding 'sweet spots' more often is important.
- Developing day-to-day tips and keeping a checklist of the positive and negative trends in approach.
- Having enough of a 'brand' to pull people in.
- The need to find the balance between taking on too much as FGLG and working only through non-FGLG work.

There are also **issues** that cut across countries and initiatives:

- Local control exists in Asia, but is less apparent in Africa.
- The scale of REDD is very different in different places.
- Vietnam, Mozambique and Tanzania have high levels of timber laundering, and elites have been in power over long time. Can FGLG engage where others cannot?
- There is a need for 'governance metrics' to enable better assessment of FGLG progress.
- Frameworks like REDD need to be focused on who owns the resources.



*Marie-Madeleine Bassalang, WWF-Cameroon and Bambang Supriyanto, Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia, talk forest governance during the learning event in Namaacha, Mozambique. Photo by Carlos Serra*

<sup>2</sup> The independent evaluation of FGLG can be found here: <http://pubs.iied.org/G02534.html>

## 2 REDD+ and FGLG (and the explosion of crazy acronyms)

National and international initiatives on REDD are in a variety of planning stages across the world. As FGLG, we have a practical platform on which to speak in a high profile way about REDD and governance and, potentially, to positively affect their outcomes.

### REDD and forest governance

	Dream	Nightmare
Money	<b>Money at last!</b> Enough to tip the balance to locally controlled sustainable forestry	<b>Where's the money gone?</b> Money not enough, wasted, or in the wrong hands
Leverage	<b>Attention at last!</b> Enough to secure rights and local capabilities	<b>More harm than good?</b> Local stakeholders disenchanted, disenfranchised and disempowered

There are both dream and disaster possibilities in REDD. The scale of money potentially brings huge attention to forests; but the alternate scenario is that this funding fails to reach the places it needs to and becomes instead a major new tool for corruption, marginalising local forest management<sup>3</sup>.

### Creating incentive schemes

The essence of REDD is to incentivise forest protection rather than destruction. In REDD+, the management of carbon stocks in forest landscapes is added. Talk continues to increase about 'plus plus', which would add agriculture to the mix.

For REDD to work, finance for actual REDD payments for emissions reductions needs to be in place. At the moment, this will seemingly be through a mix of public and market finance. The public funding is through blocks of funds from developed countries; the private funding is through market mechanisms related to carbon credits. The sort of scale needed to make a REDD process effective is much debated. Initial figures of around 15-25 billion dollars per year to enable enough effective management to be done to reduce emissions are currently looking like underestimates.

Whether this money will actually materialise and where it will come from remains to be seen. There are two types of carbon credits available. The first is the voluntary market, which is already in existence;

and secondly, the compliance market, entailing two main possibilities – cap and trade systems (where a cap is set and allowable emissions can be traded), and offsets, which can be dealt with under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). California is the currently the closest in the cap and trade system, and may be dealing with REDD soon.

There are several key initiatives currently enabling institutions to back countries in getting ready for REDD: the United Nations

Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UNREDD), the Forest Investment Program (FIP), and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The FIP is tasked with enabling the necessary actions for a country to begin receiving funds, so that transactions in REDD can begin. The programme is pushing structures, and finance behind those structures.

*“90 per cent of the responsibility has been shifted to the community – but less than 10 per cent of the money – it's a fool's game”.*

**Bright Sibale – FGLG Malawi**

<sup>3</sup> Source of diagram: Mayers, J. 2010. *Forest governance: can REDD level the playing field?* Proceedings of the Commonwealth Forestry Conference, 28 June to 2 July 2010. <http://www.cfc2010.org/papers/session13/Mayers-s13.pdf>

## Getting ready

REDD has emerged from, and is thoroughly integrated into, climate discussions and the predominant focus to date has been on its technical possibilities. And yet there is increasing recognition that many things need to be done alongside these technical things: looking at people, decisions and therefore governance. The current nature of most discussions about REDD+ strategies is akin to planning to build a house with only one wall. A great deal is going to be needed to prevent perverse outcomes from this process; to avoid the risk of elites getting all the benefits; to ensure that it is the most at-risk areas that are the focus of support; to ensure the 'additionality' that REDD requires. Decent, reliable contracts are needed but are most needed in the toughest places – where situations of tenure insecurity and weak governance prevail.

Internationally, there is a growing partnership of both donor and recipient countries, who are keen to support the readiness process. There are also considerable pilot deals already made between countries, notably between Norway and Brazil, Indonesia and the Congo Basin. These three big tropical forest contexts have been very much the initial focus. Beyond these, Tanzania may be in a somewhat different league but again has established substantial funding in the form of a range of substantial pilot projects.

## Getting the process right

There is a sense that there is broadly something wrong with the current direction; it is too top down. Even if there were fantastic money for REDD, top down programmes that impose their prescriptions will not work. As it stands, this approach needs to either start again or reorganise.

National REDD strategies are in a variety of states and shapes. Some national REDD strategies are not worth the paper they are printed on. Other processes will need to stop, collaborate and listen much more, while a few are on the right footing. In terms of the contents of REDD strategies, there is little evidence yet of incorporation of all the hard-won learning of forestry and wider land practitioners over the years – that if interventions are going to stimulate something lasting and effective for livelihoods, they have to be based on rights and the capacity for using them. And they have to keep plugging away at this for a considerable period until the job is done.

There are currently three big drivers of over-centralised REDD: firstly, that REDD and emissions reductions needs to be guaranteed and delivered at national level. This should not mean that all processes of REDD should be controlled by national governments. Secondly, that REDD comes from climate discussions and it is premised on carbon emissions being reduced. This should not mean that we are only talking about carbon. REDD must turn its focus – we are hoping for emissions reduction but the only way reductions might be delivered is to embrace people's livelihoods; we have to involve agriculture and wider land use

*'Government agencies have critical roles to play in governance. The idea that local people and NGOs can and should take over governance completely is ridiculous. In the case of REDD, local people alone will not be able to shape and deliver the needed outcomes globally - we need to have national ownership of REDD, and to empower people to control the conditions.'*

**Chimère Diaw - FGLG Cameroon**



*In Mozambique, 54 per cent of people live below the poverty line, most depending on subsistence agriculture, like farmer Nimale Maribu Saidi. Photo © Mike Goldwater*

and the ways in which they affect carbon. Thirdly, that REDD is urgent and necessarily enormous in scale, and that it is only going to work if it is international. The large sums of money and the scale of the challenge is leading to quick fixes that will not work. Despite its urgency, scale and money, the imperative is to build from the ground up.

## What we can do

The range of strategies developing nationally in FGLG countries displays some who seem to want to control forest governance to try to make REDD schemes work, rather than thinking how REDD schemes can support a proper flow of supporting forest governance.

Different groups are working on getting REDD protagonists thinking differently and getting engagement right. For example, the need to build up REDD from site to site; or to recognise that villages have ownership over the land. There is a consensus amongst FGLG teams that the scale of the governance challenge is almost overwhelming but the practicalities of forest governance need to be considered both internationally and in-country. We need to get the message to REDD protagonists that without secure and equitable property rights and effective local institutions, REDD does not have a chance. If FGLG tailor and target well in-country, REDD strategies can be put into better shape than they are right now.

FGLG can introduce guidance and tactics, present processes and develop systems based on what works. If the idea of local control is expanded on, what would it look like, how can we demonstrate that it would be capable of delivering REDD? What would the processes and mechanisms look like? What does a viable FPIC process look like? These subjects can be the focus of an agenda, with targeted messages that would work internationally and messages that would work nationally.

As a group, FGLG needs to create spaces for these necessary discussions to happen; bringing practitioners together across countries is a critical role of this group. We need to make available briefings and reports that provoke thinking, provoke reaction, and provoke people coming into the debate. The media can be actively pursued and we can make much stronger connections with other arenas, such as FLEGT and agricultural initiatives. These issues need to be worked through and FGLG is in a unique position to take a lead.

## 3 FGLG country team progress and plans

FGLG country teams regularly share news of their progress and plans. The Group's periodic learning events represent a particularly important opportunity for each team to discuss their work and receive quite rigorous evaluation, critique and advice from their peers. Joint lesson-learning is the main result. In December 2010 the seventh (since 2003) major FGLG learning event was held in Namaacha, Mozambique. Country team presentations delved into which tactics have worked, which haven't, and which might be usefully applied in other country contexts.

Each country team works within the structure of a 2010-2013 work plan with specific objectives for the period. Within this framework, the teams have considerable flexibility to develop and modify tactics, spot opportunities for influence and adapt wherever necessary. More detailed annual work plans are generated. The full versions of both framework and detailed work plans are available for download at: [www.iied.org/fglg](http://www.iied.org/fglg). Section 3.1 below captures the diverse range of strategies and actions of the teams recently, with an honest assessment of progress by a peer-review panel at the Namaacha learning event. Section 3.2 summarises the main actions of the teams in 2011, which have been fine-tuned since the learning event over the first half of the year.



Steven Ngubane, from Forestry South Africa, works on the FGLG Action Plan for 2011. Photo by Leianne Rolington

### 3.1 Strategy and progress of each FGLG country team

#### Cameroon – opportunities seized for increasing local benefits from forests

FGLG-Cameroon – from here on called GREG-Forêts or *Groupe de Réflexion et d'Etude sur la Gouvernance des Forêts* – became fully active in 2006 and today involves over 20 diverse individuals. It has emerged as a team capable of effectively coordinating experiential learning relevant to debates and actions on key forest governance issues across many institutions and levels in Cameroon.

Over the past year, the team has initiated a ‘hit and learn’ approach, whereby particular problems are put on the table and the group focus all attention in trying out ideas together to fix it. Practical events run by the team over the last year also included workshops on forestry rights, ‘legitimacy’ in combating illegal forestry, and issues related to small forest enterprises. Ways to use and install thinking in the Model Forests Network were also explored. GREG-Forêts were also involved in a study on climate mitigation and adaptation, how to monitor real impacts, and the feasibility of REDD transactions in Cameroon. Members also attended the biodiversity conference in Nagoya to further the network and learning.

The effect of GREG-Forêts work over the last year has thus been considerable. It has broadened understanding and mobilised action for the development of key enabling decisions for very small and small forest enterprises. Through its members it contributed strongly to the Members of Parliament platform on possible actions in mitigating climate change in Addis Ababa, that in turn influenced the African position that was taken to Cancún. Finally, GREG-Forêts were able to input further into the ongoing revision of the 1994 forestry code, and to seize an important opportunity to suggest substantial revisions to a new government Order on revenue management that should bring key positive changes for community forestry in Cameroon.

## Ghana – synergy and dissonance between top down and bottom up governance reform approaches

In its 2010-2013 work plan, FGLG-Ghana explores a range of synergies and dissonance between top-down donor-driven and bottom-up civil-society-driven governance reform strategies. Specific expected FGLG-Ghana outputs by 2013 are:

- a) A core multi-stakeholder team of activists networked to the nerve centres of forest policymaking in Ghana and willing to engage systematically over the long term to achieve reforms.
- b) A larger multi-stakeholder audience that can take core team outputs forward towards policy change and reform.
- c) Governance learning products such as:
  - I. presentations of information and analyses to FGLG participants on topical issues within thematic areas;
  - II. analytical briefs for stakeholders (policymakers, industry and civil society) on issues arising from FGLG deliberations;
  - III. information and analytical briefs to IIED and FGLG groups outside of Ghana on governance reform; and
  - IV. presentations at annual FGLG learning events and other cross-country exchange events.

A range of big top-down donor initiatives – such as the Natural Resources, Environment and Governance (NREG) programme, the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), National Forest Programme, Forest Investment Program (FIP) and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) – are playing out alongside more bottom-up initiatives – such as the NGO-led Governance Initiative for Rights and Accountability in Forest Management (GIRAF), which seeks to develop community forest projects; Making Forests Transparent (steered by Global Witness), which is seeking to track reform, and through this training facilitators at the community level as a means of capacity building; and Rights, Resources and the Constitution (linked to the Rights and Resources Initiative). The FGLG team has been trying to plot a path through these.

FGLG-Ghana helped revive the VPA, which had stalled after its signing in 2008, and has worked to gain more coherence amongst policy and law reform initiatives. The team has helped develop a better understanding amongst Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on REDD+ financing and has held a series of contact meetings and have found the ministry receptive to engagement with CSOs on the VPA and REDD. CSOs have been likewise keen to engage regarding the voluntary carbon market. A communiqué was produced on the challenges of multi-stakeholder implementation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) and potential REDD strategy.

In recognition that donor coherence does not last long; for example REDD's arrival (in the shape of the FCPF and FIP) effectively drawing all attention away from NREG, FGLG-Ghana players in government have had to change as the politics have changed. FGLG-Ghana and Civic Response have tried to push briefings and submissions to the key players in NREG where the opportunity arises. The team has also worked hard to strengthen district-level forest forums, while the government has been propping up a rather ill-considered and unrepresentative approach to a national level forum.

The peer-review panel considered performance, innovation and impacts. It was noted that the team needs to identify more sharply where the work of FGLG lies, as opposed to Civic Response as convening agency. Stronger linkage would also be useful to the Forest Connect initiative on domestic markets and SMFEs. Under a new government, there is good potential to secure active new members and develop new tactics in aiming to regain the level of urgency and innovation the team used to have in running 'fearless forums' and 'shuttle diplomacy' on key issues.

## India – stepping up engagement at high levels on forest rights

India-FGLG is focused on: strengthening community forest management through recognition of rights; strengthening community-based institutions to run NTFP enterprises; investment in forestry; tackling the contradiction of huge imports, despite large-scale plantations; India's REDD readiness preparedness; and supporting better decision-making on bioenergy development strategies.

The team has increased and restructured its membership over the last year – with theme leaders on issues such as the The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, REDD and SMFEs – and has launched a new website at [www.fglgindia.org](http://www.fglgindia.org). The team's research on how to make the FRA work was translated into submissions to a high-level committee on the status of FRA implementation, and to work in the media. It also worked to convince government, apparently successfully, to establish a cell dedicated to non-timber forest products in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. FGLG-India members also engaged with a high-profile meetings and follow-up processes on forests and left-wing extremism. It hosted web discussions on key legislation – converting the results of this and other work into several policy briefs. The team has also been looking at new protected area designations, at self-initiated forest protection groups and how to strengthen them through recognition of rights. It has begun to promote a stance on REDD+, notably linked to its engagement at high levels with the new 'National Mission for a Green India'.

FGLG-India team members have increased the attention they give to sharing information on their current engagements on forest governance, and they have started targeting, as a team, highly connected individuals in their work, such as the head of the Green India mission. Media links have also increased, and the Times of India environmental correspondent has become closely linked to the team. The team has also carefully tracked other major initiatives, such as those linked to the CBD and UNDP.

The peer-review panel was particularly impressed with the recently strong levels of engagement with high profile officials. The independent nature of the team, the good communication and transparency through the new website and the inclusion of inputs from diverse sources, all contribute to strong process and impact. The investment in team building is likely to have further impact, with strengthening links to various change processes through officials and politicians and the rising profile of the team evidenced by the increasing number of invitations to give views and positions.

## Indonesia – REDD for community-based forest management

Community-based forest management is at the heart of FGLG-Indonesia. In the fast-moving context of REDD+, the team is working on specific opportunities and challenges that arise at district and national levels to ensure that REDD+ related policies and practice strengthen good forest governance and guarantee the

rights of local communities. FGLG-Indonesia's work plan took considerable time to fall into place. It did so in early 2011 and it focuses on the following outputs by 2013: national REDD+ strategy, with credible components on good forest governance; FGLG Indonesia alumni effectively engaged in implementing REDD+ strategy; findings and lessons from experience relevant to REDD+ and governance taken up by stakeholders in REDD+ initiatives; and analysis of gaps and ways forward in the implementation of REDD+.

FGLG-Indonesia has been established as a multi-stakeholder forum, including government, donors, and private sector, with the NGO Inspirit convening. The team's main asset is its 'alumni' – an increasingly effective group of forest governance champions developed through membership over the years. The emphasis for FGLG-Indonesia this year has been on the capacity of members to change things, looking at their ability to operate individually and collectively in multi-level mechanisms that can influence governance. Work has focused on seizing opportunities to provide ideas, experience and review for REDD plans.

The team has worked to help stakeholders clarify what is and is not part of REDD+ and the conditions needed. Members have been critiquing the very tight timetable allowed for an extensive REDD programme, for which payments are due to be made by January 2014. FGLG- Indonesia has played a catalytic role with the fast-track decision-making, helping with appropriate techniques for the national and local level. The team has developed a local-level forum on low impact logging and REDD+ to take biodiversity into account, and connected this to the national group. An important impact has been the team's influence on the national strategy for forest sustainable development, and it has developed links to many of the REDD demonstration areas, including with a forest management unit, PAs and district level projects.

The peer-review panel found FGLG-Indonesia's means of membership recruitment and branding and marketing techniques to be particularly innovative, including the means of enabling government involvement. In discussion, the particular challenges of tracking impact of the work in the context of Indonesian REDD+ were noted, and for this reason, as well as for the need to safeguard civil society engagement, it was felt that learning from other teams could be very useful.

## Malawi – following through on sustainable charcoal options

FGLG-Malawi's 2010-2013 framework plan aims to: help to empower community forest management, in particular piloting the formalisation at district level of the community bylaws developed in Ntcheu, and using film and other media products to create greater awareness of community forest management rights and enterprise rights. It also aims to analyse the timber value chains for newly established community forest enterprises, carry out a needs assessment and develop advocacy work to shape policy that controls the business environment for these enterprises. Further priorities are to: strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement and develop allies at high level, to secure government commitment to sustainable charcoal production; facilitate the spread of legal licensing of charcoal by supporting pilot projects in Zomba and elsewhere; and build government, citizen and civil society uses of legal tools, such as procurement policies for only buying sustainable license charcoal. Finally, the team aims to contribute to the development of effective REDD and biofuel strategies.

FGLG-Malawi's efforts to work with FAO and others in scaling up the community management at Ntcheu were modified in the light of the potentially substantial resources and attention which might be focused on charcoal production if a Millennium Challenge Corporation initiative with the government can be established. The team worked on the ground with this in mind, visiting charcoal communities to assess their needs. It also hosted FGLG-Mozambique for a week to study methods to research charcoal supply and value chains. The team has been engaging at different levels for influence, including meeting with high level government officials, and engaging with the Ministry of Energy to develop a new biomass energy strategy. It has also worked with the World Bank and UNDP on projects to develop charcoal funds.

On REDD, the team has been working with the University of Edinburgh on information to stimulate REDD strategy thinking. FGLG-Malawi has initiated various discussions on a national REDD strategy and developed a funding proposal that is looking very promising.

The peer-review panel recognised a solid programme of research and advocacy with good innovations, such as collaborations with international initiatives and cross-country exchange visits. The potential for translating progress on charcoal issues into broader agendas, such as REDD, seems high.

In 2011, the FGLG-Malawi team is focused on: catalysing a national working group on REDD and attracting a REDD donor; a biofuels study and briefing paper assessing evidence for impacts of biofuel development on the poor; supporting development of the Millennium Challenge Corporation project on charcoal, plus a proposal for sustainable charcoal procurement; and work to ensure the Forest Management Fund is put in place and is functional.

## Mozambique – serious evidence and funny comics on forest transparency

In the period 2009-2013, FGLG-Mozambique is focusing on: evaluating the efficacy of forest sector legislation; interventions concerning climate change adaptation and contributions to the national REDD strategy; assessment of the production, supply and markets for charcoal and fuel wood; capacity building courses with the national media and other interest groups; and strengthening a civil society forum dedicated to the forest sector in Mozambique.

In 2010, FGLG-Mozambique put a major effort into communications, with a translation of 'the stripped green' comic strip, production of pamphlets and posters to rejuvenate 'Amigos da Floresta' involvement, and a photographic exhibition produced by young people as part of a Germany-Mozambique initiative on biofuels and land (this photography initiative is also designed as a monitoring tool to assess change in the coming years). The team has produced two books: on '20 steps to sustainability', looking at links between the current forest situation and climate change, and one on 'forest climate'. It has also been planning a study on charcoal production, based on an ongoing learning exchange with the Malawi team. The team has benefitted from the engagement of two new members from a land association, and continues to work with initiatives such as Growing Forest Partnerships, REDD strategy development and the forestry focus of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. Team members have seized a range of opportunities to feed findings into discussions on forests and climate, and on charcoal and fuelwood issues in particular.

Specific innovations being explored by the team, such as strengthening its targeted advocacy on the basis of an annual report on governance, were welcomed by the peer-review panel.

In 2011, a change in the agency that carries out the convening role is being considered by all in the team. FGLG-Mozambique's work this year is focused on advocacy, public education, publications and networking on five issues: a country-wide study on charcoal production, supply and consumption; an evaluation of the implementation of a mechanism by which 20 per cent of forest revenue is supposed to return to local communities; an assessment of major forest plantation companies operating in Mozambique in terms of social justice, reforestation policies and practices, and the carbon trade; a survey and analysis of coverage of the media on the theme of land and forests; and a survey and analysis on the status of environmental governance-sectors of environment, lands and forests.



*Director of Centro Terra Viva, Alda Salomao, strategises with the Mozambique FGLG team. Photo by Leianne Rolington*

## South Africa – small enterprise governance finding its place in land reform and industrial policy

From 2010 to 2013, FGLG-South Africa is focused on maximising the potential for small and medium forest enterprises (SMFEs) through forest governance interventions. This includes actions aiming to: maximise the potential of SMFEs in forest-based climate strategies; advance land reform and post-settlement processes for the beneficiaries' communities receiving parcels of land and forest assets; and advance pro-poor forestry interventions in the forest sector, particularly through SMFEs. The team works at provincial level (particularly in KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape Provinces) and at national level.

An evolving national industrial policy action plan has been a major focus this year – the team has been networking with high level decision-makers on this to help shape its integral forestry plan, to define priority areas, to provide evidence in particular areas, and to promote the potential of this plan to improve forest governance. The team has also continued its work to help develop a national SMFE strategy, to raise its profile and explore the possibility of an SMFE support fund. Through its members, the team has also facilitated support to community SMFEs to the tune of 30 million Rand.

Post-settlement land reform has also been on FGLG-South Africa's agenda this year, as it works to improve forestry practice in the land that has been transferred to communities. The team has two new members from the Department of Land Reform and has developed a strong thematic leadership role within the team. The team also took part in a policy process on climate change, with the aim to bring in forestry and justice issues. The members compiled a brief on REDD and the approach the forest sector should take, based on learning from other countries, such as Mozambique.

The peer-review panel were impressed by the many activities undertaken in one year and liked the degree of cross-team learning achieved by FGLG-South Africa. The panel acknowledge the challenge of identifying specific impacts from general strong performance but highlighted the work on the SMFE strategy and land reform as being particularly promising.

## Tanzania – rights, small forest enterprise and REDD

Having started up in 2010, FGLG-Tanzania has really found its feet in 2011. Its framework plan to 2013 concentrates on two main outputs:

- **Forest rights and small forest enterprise:** Identifiable contributions to improvements made in key decisions about forest rights, capabilities and enterprise that foster locally controlled forestry (these contributions will primarily be responses to the *Mama Misitu* campaign to raise awareness about forest governance).
- **REDD:** Identifiable contributions made to an effective and equitable national REDD+ approach and practical governance improvements that enable REDD+ to support participatory forest management.

The team in Tanzania has contributed to a comprehensive and detailed evidence-based study, commissioned by the government, to assess the difference between the timber exported from Tanzania and that imported into China. The *Mama Misitu* campaign has picked up the challenges revealed by this research, showing communities how to pursue legal trade, and showing the government the level of leakage. The team continues to work with the *Mama Misitu* campaign, focusing on governance issues – it has made one documentary film about the issues and is working on another, focused on the government position. This is part of an effort to establish a five-year plan with the government to address the problems in the timber trade.

On REDD, the team has been working out how best to contribute in order to establish effective connections between the local and the national, addressing the common problems and challenges. As an increasingly strong 'governance arm' of the Tanzania Forest Working Group, it has been tackling REDD governance issues through a series of dynamic face-to-face group meetings and interactions with government. The team is also working to build trust with the private sector, and to bring agencies in the universities on board.

The peer-review panel urged the team to explore how governance learning will spread within and beyond the

nine REDD pilot projects, and how these projects can scale in relations to governance issues. The economic approach to the work on the timber trade is critical and the team was encouraged to maintain and develop this emphasis in its timber trade and REDD work.

## Uganda – critiquing key institutions without bringing them down

By carrying out targeted and independent policy studies, nurturing ideas and feeding them into policy processes, and responding to governance developments with creative advocacy action, FGLG-Uganda has become a leading research and policy advocacy platform. In particular, the team was influential in shaping the National Development Plan and the National Land Policy, and in the campaign against degazettment of Mabira and Kalangala forests, including legal challenge in courts of law. An independent evaluation internationally of FGLG found demonstrable signs that this work has been translated into tangible and widespread impact on the ground.

FGLG-Uganda's 2010-2013 framework plan emphasises actions to: increase the voices of local communities in forestry decision-making processes; promote allocation of forest reserve land to riparian communities as per the NFA policy; promote small forest enterprises that benefit local communities; track and publicise illegal forest activities; and advocate for an inclusive and transparent legal and institutional framework for REDD and other climate change initiatives.

In response to a call to incorporate more community and local government representatives, FGLG-Uganda grew in 2010 from fifteen to twenty people. It hosted learning meetings through the year with institutions like the Uganda Wildlife Authority and National Environment Management Authority. The team undertook research into key barriers to progress in the forestry sector and wrote a policy memorandum to the cabinet on land rights of ethnic forest communities.

FGLG-Uganda's research and report on forest concessions - 'Trouble in the forests' - was taken up actively in the media. This and other work by the team informed investigations by the Auditor General and Attorney General, resulting in a change of leadership in the National Forest Authority (NFA). This led the team to recognise the power of work that focuses on a specific issue, so the same methodology is being applied to other issues of illegal timber – finding out the actors, how they are benefiting, and actively pointing out individuals. At the same time, the team recognises that it must be careful to help safeguard the key functions of institutions such as the NFA that currently appear fragile.

A similar tactical re-think occurred around the team's work petitioning ministers, after a realisation that the ministers for environment may be part of the problem. The team thus devised a strategy to reach out to more powerful political voices and has intentions to meet the president. The team continues to concentrate on governance issues as part of the wider Uganda Forest Working Group, which has broad membership. Being part of the national REDD working group and the land policy working group, the team has held strategic meetings with political party leaders, who may later come into power.

The peer-review panel noted that the team's work on issues of illegality was very important but it must be careful to consider the original source of illegal timber (some of it is likely to be from neighbouring countries) and the possible effects of shifting of illegality and corruption from one place to another, as particular actions are taken. Discussion also focused on whether messages could be brought direct from communities to the government, perhaps developing more films and other media to get messages across. The critical role of solid research and evidence was recognised – this gives legitimacy and enables a two-stage process of confrontation followed by engagement to have impact.

## Vietnam – community title at the heart of prospects for FLEGT and REDD

In 2010, FGLG-Vietnam aimed to: promote allocation of forest title to local communities; engage in national FLEGT processes; participate in REDD networks and national REDD programme development; and establish and strengthen links with other REDD-related initiatives in Vietnam. The team's work has met with some success.

Much effort was put into a potential model case to show how forest titles could be transferred to communities. Based on lessons learned from previous FGLG work with Pho Trach village in Thua Thien Hue province, the team started discussing possibilities for providing land use titles for the community forest area with key local officials. Local people have managed the forest resources here for over 400 years and have developed local rules for their forest. Previous FGLG work had shown the loss of benefits to villagers when the land had been allocated (by the state) to a sand mining company. Negotiations continue.

FLEGT negotiations only started in late 2010, but the FGLG-Vietnam team has begun engaging, with a view to emphasise the need to put local communities, particularly forest dependent people, in the centre of the discussions on forest governance and trade.

FGLG-Vietnam team members have been actively participating in different REDD and climate change networks in Vietnam, notably the national REDDnet and REDD technical working groups formed in 2009 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam. Members were also involved in the development of the national REDD programme and preparation of Vietnam's Readiness Preparation Proposal. The convener of the team is also the coordinator of the mitigation sub-theme of the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) – an alliance of (international) NGOs working on climate change issues in Vietnam (see <http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/ccwg>) – and technical advisor on REDD to the VNGO-CC, a network of Vietnamese NGOs working on climate change. FGLG-Vietnam team members have also been involved in evaluation and verification of processes of Free, Prior and Informed Consent under the UN-REDD programme in Vietnam, in REDD-related capacity building activities for state and non-state actors, and in a study on REDD-compliant benefit distribution systems for Vietnam and a similar study for Laos.

The peer-review panel recognised the very solid basis for impact that the strong relationships developed by the team provides. The important issues of illegal timber trading and the links and comparisons with some African countries were discussed, but the sensitive nature of these issues in Vietnam, and the limited resources of the team prevent them from being fully engaged with by the team to date.

## 3.2 Country team activity plans for 2011

Each country team has produced a comprehensive work plan for 2011. Given here is a synopsis of their main planned activities and what they hope to achieve. For full versions of the work plans, please visit [www.iied.org/fglg](http://www.iied.org/fglg).

### Cameroon: plans for action

- Meet with the Prime Minister (or his services) to collaborate and achieve recognition of GREG-Forêts as a partner of government in forest governance issues.

#### Output 1: Forest rights and small forest enterprise

- Follow up on 2010 stakeholder workshop on very small and small forest enterprises (VSFEs) research, to set up collaborative Action-Research with local people and researchers aiming at improving the governance environment for sustainable VSFEs.

- Coaching and monitoring VSFEs by helping two pilot VSFEs set up their business plan based on ongoing activities, and monitor their successes and failures.

#### **Output 2: Legitimate forest products**

- Explore the notion of legitimate forest products (LFPs) and identify gaps between legitimacy and legality for a selected set of forest products and actors. Inform policies on the balance between responsibilities and rights that can sustain local economy innovations in the forest sector.
- Review the notion of LFPs and identify the gaps between legitimacy and legality of some selected forests products by holding workshop on LFPs: products, SFEs, legal challenges, para-legal programmes, and so on.
- Monitor and develop recognition of key issues and opportunities in the evolution and implementation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA).
- Organise a survey on the management of national parks and the legitimacy of forest products to find out how the implementation of the law on national parks impacts on the communities.

#### **Output 3: Pro-poor climate mitigation and adaption through forestry**

- Finalise the institutional map of Climate Change and REDD actors in Cameroon, and a synthesis of the recommendations from the REDD seminar held in 2010, to establish and facilitate an information, training and an exchange platform on climate change and REDD.
- Hold a stakeholders' meeting to draw a road map for the period 2011-2013.
- Conduct a study on renewable energy to understand the actors and institutions involved in renewable energy and how this could impact community livelihoods.
- Strengthen the network of parliamentarians and its electorate at the grassroots to better understand the REDD process in Cameroon.

#### **Output 4: Trans-national learning and preparedness**

- Identify and create links with partners and key stakeholders for transnational processes.
- Cooperate and strengthen linkages and networks with other Asian and African groups on SFEs, LFPs, climate change and REDD.

## **Ghana: plans for action**

- Convene strategic meeting of FGLG country team to select governance targets, drivers and fine-tune 2011 work plan.
- Hold four Core Group meetings.
- Hold two Reference Group (see 2010-13 framework plan) meetings.
- Develop and sustain informal engagement of stakeholder leaders from government, industry, donor community, and civil society organisations.
- Produce governance learning products: at least four presentations of information and analyses to FGLG participants on governance targets; at least two analytical briefs for Reference Group members on issues arising from FGLG deliberations; at least four policy briefs targeting governance reform players.
- Conduct follow-up advocacy actions using FGLG-Ghana governance learning products.
- Participate in FGLG learning events and other cross-country exchange events.
- Provide narrative and financial reports.
- Participate in FGLG International Learning Event.

## India: plans for action

### Output 1: Forest rights and small forest enterprise

- Publication of policy briefs on key issues emerging in the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and on specific themes as outlined in the work plan on Protected Area governance and FRA synergies and existing participatory approaches and methods to overcome potential conflicts with FRA.
- Policy briefs in the context of Community Forest Management, Forest Rights Act (FRA), (Provisions of Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD); compiled through field work, local workshops, and dialogues.
- Review of activities in Forest Department-promoted initiatives in three states active on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs); development of one publication for all stakeholders; providing necessary feedback to Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MOTA) officials in strategic meetings on the basis of review study.
- Develop press report on Left Wing Extremism affected areas and scope of NTFP enterprise.
- Policy brief for institutional coordination model with formal, informal and supporting organisation (cooperatives, rural bank etc.).

### Output 2: Legitimate forest products

- A short report highlighting the investment made in tree plantations, their current status, and their contribution towards meeting the needs of legitimate forest products in the country. The report will also provide an overview of the current demand of forest products (wood-based) in the country and the main sources through which this demand is currently being met.
- A short policy brief highlighting key findings and recommendations.
- A PowerPoint presentation for relevant stakeholders.
- A short piece in media.

### Output 3: Pro poor climate mitigation and adaptation through forestry

Support India's REDD readiness

- Initiate dialogue on CFM.
- Engage stakeholders on forestry and climate change including REDD+ (collaborative proposal).
- Develop awareness materials in local language.
- Document local consultations.
- Prepare policy briefs.
- Develop a learning platform on climate change REDD.
- Though there is no platform on REDD in India currently, FGLG-India shall strive to build one through the consultations proposed and the policy brief developed.

Support better decision-making on bio-energy strategies

- Focus on rural energy security.
- Analyse bio-energy policies and programmes resulting in policy briefs on bio-energy issues and challenges.
- The above will be based on discussion with IIED tentatively in October on bio-energy.

### Other activities: Respond to emerging governance challenges

Through policy dialogues, blogs, web-discussions, seminars, webinars, strategic meetings, media briefs:

- Left Wing Extremism and forest governance.

- Connections between PESA, FRA, Joint Forest Management.
- Track Green India mission and Compensatory Afforestation, Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).
- Promoting Non Timber Forest Produce cell at Ministry.
- FGLG-Asia.
- Fundraising.
- Organise presentations by thematic experts.
- Ongoing information and communication within team and externally through FGLG India website etc.

## Indonesia: plans for action

### **Output 1: National REDD+ strategy, with credible components on good forest governance**

- Carry out a series of focus group discussions amongst FGLG Indonesia alumni on governance for REDD+ strategy.
- Prepare a policy brief on key messages on governance for REDD+.
- Participate in technical meetings on REDD+ National Strategy.
- Participate in stakeholder REDD+ meetings to share lessons learned with policymakers, and REDD+ related institutions at national and local levels.
- Take part in international meetings to share and learn lessons on REDD+.

### **Output 2: FGLG Indonesia alumni effectively engaged in implementing REDD+ strategy**

- Communicate amongst FGLG, secure the services of a writer, and conduct interviews and group meetings, to capture case studies of FGLG alumni influence and prepare a report on 'what FGLG can do' – of these case studies with a synthesis of FGLG shared values and potential.
- Use the above report and other actions to deepen the commitment of existing FGLG alumni and increase their numbers.
- With FGLG members and alumni, map out the ways they engage, or can engage, in implementing REDD+ – including Monitoring, Reporting and Verification – and develop this into a strategy to optimise this engagement.
- Through good communications and networking actions, push the implementation of the FGLG REDD+ engagement strategy and take stock of progress in late 2011.

### **Output 3: Findings and lessons from experience relevant to REDD+ and governance taken up by stakeholders in REDD+ initiatives**

- Conduct workshops and stakeholder communications on effective approaches to governance of sustainable forest management in different forest types of relevance for national REDD+ strategy and demonstration activities – and produce information briefs on these.
- Begin lesson learning from REDD+ demonstration activities on the ground – and produce information briefs.
- Generate and take opportunities to install findings on SFM approaches and initial lessons from REDD+ experience in national and local REDD+ implementation processes.

## Malawi: plans for action

- REDD framework developed with briefing paper, to raise profile / catalyse national working group on REDD to attract a REDD donor.
- Biofuels study, workshop and briefing paper, to assess evidence for impacts of biofuel development on poor working towards a new biofuel policy.
- Millennium Challenge Corporation project on charcoal, plus proposal for sustainable charcoal procurement; to pilot sustainable charcoal, and form producer associations with government to make sustainable charcoal procurement.
- Four country FGLG group taking messages to SADC to spread FGLG messages more widely and at higher levels.
- Forest Management Fund follow-up to ensure it happens, ensuring that the fund is in place and functional.
- Quick survey of media coverage on forest / environment to assess where national media attention is focused as a baseline for targeted media work.
- Capacity building initiatives to respond to capacity needs for FGLG members.

## Mozambique: plans for action

### Research

- Develop a charcoal study, similar to the one done by our Malawian colleagues, in order to find out what is right and what is wrong in the entire value chain; give recommendations on policy and social justice in forests, taking into account the debate on climate change.
- Evaluation of the Implementation Mechanism of Revenue Forest Return to Local Communities (20 per cent). By Mozambican law, 20 per cent of forest revenues must go back to the community living around the forest where the revenues have been generated, but enforcement is weak.
- Assessment of major forest plantation companies operating in Mozambique in terms of social justice, reforestation policies and practices, and carbon trade affairs.
- Survey and analysis of coverage of the media on the theme of land and forests. There is a need for interacting with the media, looking at how they report and address issues related to land conflicts and uses, and forests.
- Survey and analysis on the status of environmental governance-sectors of environment, lands and forests. Here we will be looking at the bad and good governance aspects on environment.

### Advocacy

- Regional dialogues on REDD (REDD dissemination among local communities, government agencies, small and medium enterprises doing business in forests, NGOs, students, etc).
- Publicity about the Year of Forests (2011).
- Campaigns on lands and forests, focusing on how to avoid land conflicts, and how to better use forest to benefit the next generation.
- Debates/round tables and lectures around the forest issue and its relation to climate change and REDD.
- Public debates alluding to the international day of environmental and forests.

### Education and Training (Public Awareness)

- Participation in programmes related to REDD and its capacity to interest groups (government, local communities, NGOs).
- Support the creation of a national forum on forest community associations.

**Publications and outreach**

- A book about the production and consumption of charcoal in Mozambique.
- Study on media coverage of land and forests.
- Annual report on environmental good governance in the areas of environment, land and forests.

**Networking**

- Support and build a strong position on the Annual National Forums of land and forests.
- Strengthening the role of the national forum on community management of natural resources.
- Support the creation of an integrated platform for policy dialogue on natural resources.

## South Africa: plans for action

**Output 1: Forest rights and small forest enterprise**

- Monitor implementation of the National Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) to achieve effective resource prioritisation, allocation and utilisation by SMFEs, especially in communities.
- Monitor implementation of the SMFE strategy, to develop of support mechanisms for SMFEs; effective resource prioritisation, allocation and utilisation by SMFEs.
- Provide inputs to the anticipated land reform policy review to mainstream post-settlement support mechanisms into policy including resources, skills development and institutional capacity building.

**Output 2: Legitimate forest products**

- Convene learning session on access to state and private production resource assets for NTFP based enterprises, to achieve clarity on resource access rights.
- Provide inputs onto SMFE Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) system and standard development for security of SMFE and provision of appropriate tools.

**Output 3: Pro-poor climate mitigation and adaption through forestry**

- Provide inputs to the National Climate Change Green Paper to ensure that forest related issues are properly covered.
- Provide inputs into development of forest sector climate change response strategy to ensure that strategy makes provision for real pro-poor benefits.

**Output 4: Trans-national learning and preparedness**

- Provide inputs to SA's position on the African Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (AFLEGT) processes to ensure that key forest governance issues are covered and discussed, and influence decisions on AFLEGT thereof.
- Draft a 'policy intelligence tool' to present key attributes and processes for policy engagement.
- Take part in FGLG international events to contribute towards coordination and learning on forest governance issues.
- Participate in Southern and Eastern Africa FGLG teams learning session on REDD+ to exchange lessons and build capacity to interact with similar processes in respective participating countries.
- Convene at least four FGLG-SA learning sessions on Outputs 1.3, 2.1, 3.2 and 4.1.

## Tanzania: plans for action

### Output 1: Forest rights and small forest enterprise

- Conduct a study on timber trade and leakage in Tanzania and Mozambique.
- Undertake a study on the drivers and outcomes of timber trade between East Africa and China.
- Document learning into/from “Mama Mitsu campaign” and priority issues as they emerge. Innovations to be identified: films – use existing films and new versions; policy briefs; media outreach; cartoons/comics.
- Visit the TRAFFIC timber trade study sites between Tanzania and Mozambique and learn from it.
- Round table discussion between FGLG-Tanzania, FGLG-Mozambique and the Kenya/Tanzania cross border timber and forest products trade to learn from each other.

### Output 2: REDD – Identifiable contributions made to an effective and equitable national REDD+ approach and practical governance improvements that enable REDD+ to support PFM

- To track REDD initiatives (big REDD projects, small/alternative REDD pilots and voluntary carbon projects) and sharing pilot experiences with China.
- To produce reports/media inputs etc. on: 1) emerging lessons; 2) policy briefs and presentations related to REDD pilot projects.
- Pulling in from ‘Mama Mitsu’: implications for REDD illegal timber trade; implications of “leakage”/ governance for national REDD or regional drivers.

### Output 3: Development and resourcing of FGLG-Tanzania

- Finalising membership recruitment.
- Conduct a retreat for FGLG country teams members to finalise project activities for year 2011 and agreeing on other procedures.
- Explore possibilities of resourcing FGLG internally and externally.
- Participate in neighbouring meetings to share experiences (Mozambique, Tanzania, Malawi, Uganda, Kenya and DRC) – phase one will include Mozambique, DRC and Kenya and phase two will include Uganda, Malawi and any other who may be necessary.

## Uganda: plans for action

- Analyse implications of current and proposed scenarios and institutional framework for REDD implementation in Uganda.
- Develop a policy briefing paper on alternative models for benefit sharing in forestry to ensure community participation and benefit.
- Finalise study on illegal timber trade and initiate a public / media campaign (that also reaches rural audiences).
- Review previous studies and existing regulatory framework for charcoal burning and implications for forestry and trade.
- Organise national learning events.
- Participate in development of FGLG China-Africa forest governance platform and, in particular, seek opportunity to promote CSR in the oil and gas industry related to forest and biodiversity conservation in the Albertine Graben in Uganda (and bordering countries).
- Participate in FGLG international learning event.

## Vietnam: plans for action

### Output 1: Forest rights and small forest enterprise

- Develop concept note and assessment tool (including first testing) and collect data in the field (Dak Lak, Thua Thien Hue and maybe Bac Kan), to assess forest tenure and benefit sharing arrangements.
- Continue discussion with relevant officials on allocation of forest rights to Pho Trach village to promote allocation of forest title to local communities.
- Develop awareness-raising packages and test the packages in Dak Lak and Thua Thien Hue to raise awareness of legal rights and responsibilities by local communities concerning forests.

### Output 2: Legitimate forest products

- Attend meetings when appropriate to engage in national Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) process.

### Output 3: Pro-poor climate mitigation and adaption through forestry

- Attend meetings when appropriate and contribute to issues raised in the REDD working groups, to participate in REDD network and national REDD programme development and implementation.
- Coordinate sharing of REDD information with the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) and members of the Vietnam NGO Climate Change (VNGO-CC) network, and attend meetings held by REDD projects to learn and share lessons from FGLG, to establish and strengthen links with other REDD-related initiatives in Vietnam.
- Develop awareness raising package/s and test the package/s in Ha noi (Dak Lak and Thua Thien Hue); and develop and publish handbook on climate change for community members to raise awareness on climate change, particularly REDD.

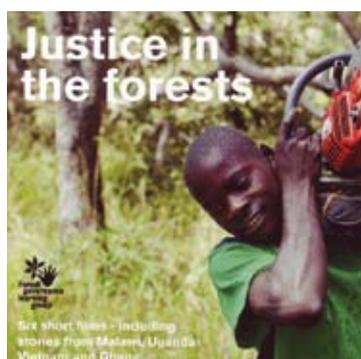
### Output 4: Trans-national learning and preparedness

- Host FGLG international learning event in Vietnam: prepare and organise the event, coordinate with RECOFTC, IIED and country teams, and facilitate discussion at the event and a field visit.
- Present lessons from FGLG-Vietnam in regional and international workshops / meetings; attend relevant events to share lessons and experiences.
- Organise internal FGLG-Vietnam learning and annual work planning, including: organise annual meeting in Ha noi to review past activities and plan for 2011, and organise annual meeting in Hue for team building, review of past activities and plan for 2012.
- Contribute lessons learned from FGLG-Vietnam to IIED's Power Tools series; document the approach applied by FGLG-Vietnam in the Power Tools format.

## 4 International FGLG initiatives and other linked work

Internationally, the Forest Governance Learning Group has been involved with cross-country work amongst the teams, and a variety of other initiatives. The following gives an introduction to these projects and initiatives run by, or linked to, FGLG.

### *Justice in the forests* – a series of films



FGLG launched a set of films in 2011. These films give extraordinary insight into some of the toughest challenges facing both forests and people and some of the governance-based solutions that could turn this around. Made by IIED and an independent film-maker, Dominic Elliot, and involving many in the FGLG network, these films have been widely viewed online, in a range of international meetings and in national TV screenings in several countries.

***Tackling forest governance: how small groups can have a big impact*** – is the title of the first short film that looks at the work of FGLG across the countries and the tactics used to address country-specific issues. ***Justice in the forests*** is a longer 20 minute film, the overview of the series, giving an insight into common trials and tribulations faced across forest nations, and some solutions. These films can be viewed at: <http://www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/forestry/justice-forests-series-short-films>.

There are also four short films looking at the particular issues faced in Ghana, Uganda, Vietnam and Malawi.

- ***Trees in local hands*** details how the FGLG team in Ghana are working on practical ways of securing local decision-making to address the issue of chainsaw lumbering.

For almost a century, the timber business has been dominated by large companies. The failure of this system to allow local people to gain substantial benefits from the forest has led to a proliferation of unauthorised chainsaw operators. With ForestWatch Ghana and the government's Forestry Commission, the Forest Governance Learning Group is working to abandon the pretence that the state can control timber trees on farmers' lands and to explore better deals for local control of forestry.

<http://www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/forestry/justice-forests-ghana>

- ***Forests fight back*** tells the epic tale of the fierce and ultimately successful battle to save the Mabira forest reserve in Uganda from being sold off to private agribusiness.

The Mabira forest is one of the few remaining areas of protected forest left in the country. The film describes the story of what happened when the government announced a plan to degazette areas of the Mabira forest and sell it off to the Lugazi Sugar Company. Campaigners presented a clear argument of the economic benefits of local community forest management and the illegality of the president's decision to sell of the forest. At the heart of the situation in Uganda lies the question of governance, of who decides on the use and allocation of forest resources, and on what basis they make their decisions. <http://www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/forestry/justice-forests-uganda>

- ***Local people need legal rights to forests*** shows how benefits have started to accrue to communities in Vietnam when they were given commercial rights to use forests – and how this provides an incentive for sustainable forest management.

Although many communities in Vietnam have managed their forests for centuries, it is only recently that the government has recognised the legal status of community forest management. This film compares

the case of one village that has received legal title to one that has not. Gaining security and rights will not only ensure the health and well being of the forests themselves, but also for the people who have cared for them for generations and hope to continue doing so far into the future.

<http://www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/forestry/justice-forests-vietnam>

- **Burning issues: The problem of charcoal** details how the FGLG team in Malawi put the charcoal issue on the map as the country's third largest industry and brought government together with charcoal producers in search of more sustainable and pro-poor policy solutions.

Burning issues explores the nature of the problem with charcoal – its production – which has such devastating environmental impacts. It presents the case for community managed forests as a possible solution to charcoal production – and that legalisation and management can make it a sustainable source of green energy as well as reducing poverty at the community level. And it shows how by bringing the issue out in the open with a public debate, including multiple stakeholders, can have tremendous results for policy and behavioural change.

<http://www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/forestry/justice-forests-malawi>

### Impact of these films in the media and amongst other organisations

The six films in the series have been viewed over 1,700 times in total on the web alone, in the space of just four months. With a distribution of DVDs to partners and beyond, as well as a large number of requests for copies coming in from interested parties and broadcasters, there has been an immense and positive response to the release of these films. One thing these films have certainly achieved, is to bring forest governance issues to a wider audience and create valuable links and allies for FGLG with hitherto unmet groups of people.

Here is a brief run-down of the publicity generated:

#### Press and media

- The international press release went online at <http://www.iied.org/natural-resources/media/justice-forests-six-online-films-and-webinar-iied> and was sent to 3,487 journalists in developing countries; particularly targeting the countries that are focused on in the films.
- Marketing to journalists in North, will be more targeted – aiming at Guardian.co.uk, New Scientist, BBC Online, Mongabay.com, New York Times and other websites that might show the films online.
- The press release was reproduced by Reuters (<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/films-explore-who-gets-to-decide-about-forests/>) and a Singapore-based news portal carried a Vietnam-specific story <http://www.eco-business.com/features/red-book-key-to-managing-vietnams-forests/>.
- Radio interviews took place with James Mayers, Head of Natural Resources and Mike Shanahan, Press Officer of IIED, for South African Radio and Radio Cosmos in Namibia, respectively.
- A webinar about the issues raised was hosted by James Mayers, with participation from partners and external forestry professionals.
- Invitations to broadcast were sent to Patrick Khoza, Managing Director, Malawi Broadcasting Corporation; William Ampem Darko, Director General, Ghana Broadcasting Corporation; Florence Bonabaana, Programmes Manager, Uganda Broadcasting Corporation.
- Requests for copies for reporting or broadcast have been received from: Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, Ghana; SABC & Channel Africa, Malawi; Blantyre Newspapers Ltd, Malawi; Star Radio, Malawi; Radio West, Uganda; Bukedde TV, Uganda; VTC14, Vietnam; Hanoi Radio & Television, Vietnam; several have already broadcast the films.
- The Uganda film has appeared at this online festival: <http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/festival/play/7173/Justice-in-the-Forests--Uganda--Forests-Fight-Back>.

## Screenings

In January 2011, 115 people attending the international EC FLEGT conference in Belgium were entertained with a screening of *Trees in local hands*. Shown at the outset of day two, the film provided a context for the ensuing discussions. Appreciation was voiced from participants for the film's veracious portrayal of the issue of chainsaw logging in Ghana.

Following the successful screening in Brussels, *Justice in the forests* was shown over lunch at a meeting with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization in February. The film prompted a great deal of discussion – and spontaneous applause – and enthusiasm for both the FGLG project and the idea of pursuing filmmaking as a communication tool.

IIED annually meet with principal government funding agencies, which in 2011 was generously hosted by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Taking part were representatives from Danish MFA, DFID, Irish Aid, and Sida; with observer participation from the Japanese International Co-operation Agency, and members of IIED staff, board and review team. *Justice in the forests* was screened during the afternoon and met with an enthusiastically favourable response from all parties.

The following week saw *Justice in the forests* shown during a meeting with the UK's Department for International Development, prompting DFID's Gemma May to comment, that "these are really powerful stories". The issues raised in the film, resonant as they are beyond the individual countries, opened up discussions of possible links with countries and partners beyond the current scope of FGLG's work.

## Comments received

*"I am working at the Cat Ba Biosphere Reserve in Vietnam, where we are also actively searching for chances to develop/legalize a participation framework for the local communities, including their rights of managing forests and using non-timber forest products. My colleagues and I enjoyed watching the films a lot. We had further useful reflections on our current UNESCO-funded project on Developing Regulations on Community Rights of Non-Timber Forest Products."*

**Tuyên Lê Thanh**

**Office of the Cat Ba Archipelago Biosphere Reserve, Vietnam**

*"I was so inspired by the Justice in the Forests films; my Director was so inspired too – he wants our whole department to focus on films now!"*

**Francesca Romano, FAO**

*"I am most grateful for giving me the opportunity to know more about the forest situation in my home country. Thank you very much and thanks to [the] team for a doing wonderful work."*

**Stephen Odoi-Larbi, Ghana**

*"The Justice in the Forests series is excellent. In particular, we're interested in the Ghana video in its entirety - there are several sequences specifically dealing with the relationship between poverty and biodiversity which we would like to integrate."*

**Alex Kenny**

**Producer/Director of the official "UN Decade on Biological Diversity Video" for the CBD Secretariat**

*“I enjoyed the Webinar this lunch time - a great chance to understand a bit more about FGLG.”*

**Janet Fisher**

**Centre for Environmental Change and Sustainability Geosciences, University of Edinburgh**

*“I received the “Justice in the Forests” DVD yesterday and enjoyed it so much I had to write and say thanks and congratulations to the IIED on a great set of short films. I wish we had people producing things like this in Madagascar (where it is just too dominated by “big conservation” and biodiversity and not enough about rights and livelihoods). It’s great work you are all doing (IIED and partners) - perhaps at some stage in the future Madagascar will become a place where these tools and approaches can also be rolled out.”*

**Barry Ferguson**

**School of International Development, UEA, UK & Libanona Ecology Centre, Madagascar**

## China-Africa forest governance platform

A newly launched phase of FGLG work focuses on interactions between China and Africa, the growing force of which is having an impact on forests and forest governance. This initiative intends to connect forest governance researchers and influential opinion-formers on forest governance in Africa, with their counterparts in China. The first phase of this process involves discussions and interactions with relevant organisations.

China is a major player in the worldwide timber trade and in other decisions that affect forests – with increasing impact on forest governance and management – and the experience of those involved and affected could usefully be shared across FGLG. IUCN-China has worked on issues connected to FLEGT in the Congo basin, and there is an opportunity to promote the levels of agreement reached. WWF in East Africa played a key part, with others in the region and China, to develop best practice guidelines for Chinese forestry companies when operating overseas – and these guidelines now have significant profile in China. WWF’s work in the region, with TRAFFIC and others, continues. This forest-governance platform initiative will engage organisations, companies and media players in partner countries and develop syntheses of lessons learned, guidance material, pilot and case studies, and improved capability and preparedness to take action on these.



*Planning for China-Africa activities gets underway with Lila Buckley, IIED and Liu Xueyan, IUCN.*

*Photo by Lianne Rolington*

A possible set of activities, which continues to be under discussion, is as follows:

Activities	How, who, when?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FGLG learning and sharing meeting in China, sharing Chinese sustainable forest governance practices, and exploring FGLG governance ideas in Chinese context.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● One meeting in China, two in Africa</li> <li>● IIED and Global Environmental Institute (GEI) in China, with input from IUCN and WWF</li> <li>● Held in China, then leverage additional funds for meeting/exchange in Africa FGLG country</li> <li>● WWF Coastal East Africa Initiative with Resource Africa-UK and an exchange visit with SEE Foundation in China</li> <li>● FGLG partners, Chinese forest governance practitioners, Chinese forestry officials and journalists</li> <li>● 2011 and 2012</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Engage Chinese company in Africa; timber/trade logging</li> <li>● Pilot Chinese forestry guidelines in FGLG member country (Tanzania)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● IUCN work on Chinese engagement</li> <li>● Partner with FGLG member team in-country for local impact and accountability – Tanzania and Mozambique focus?</li> <li>● Option of TRAFFIC, WWF and FGLG (Tanzania and Mozambique) facilitation, post timber trade study May 2011</li> <li>● 2011 and 2012</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Communication exchange: Chinese investigative journalists to FGLG member countries in Africa to investigate Chinese activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● IIED and FGLG country teams</li> <li>● Potentially as outcome of meeting in China (2011-2012)</li> <li>● IUCN to hold ‘Year of Forests’ meetings in Beijing and Shanghai; welcomes participation of FGLG and IIED</li> <li>● Tanzania and Mozambique timber report, illegal trade, films etc 2011</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● REDD+ pilot in China and capacity building; FGLG stimulate and input local perspective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Partner in China to be determined</li> <li>● Possible initial exchange with FGLG Vietnam</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chinese oil company in Uganda; forest community responsiveness engagement</li> <li>● Showcase Chinese CSR in Uganda</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FGLG Uganda to engage with local forest communities</li> <li>● Chinese engagement with WWF and GEI?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chinese construction company / sector (timber needs/sustainable options)</li> <li>● Engage demand side in Africa and China</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Subtle influencing using relative strengths and ‘trust’ status with main industry companies in China using African timber from Tanzania, Mozambique, DRC</li> <li>● Need local Chinese partner to lead</li> <li>● Roles: IIED; WWF-CEA / WWF China; RA-UK and SEE; FGLG Asia and Africa; IUCN, TRAFFIC</li> </ul>

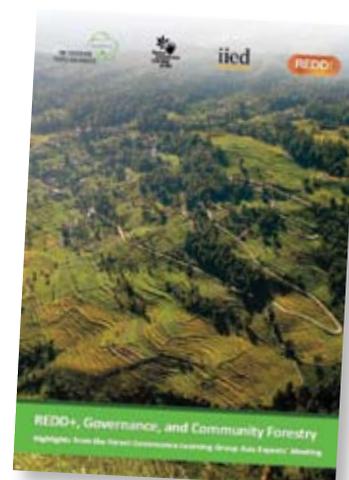
## FGLG-Asia teams, REDD+ and community forestry

FGLG teams in Vietnam, India and Indonesia came together to explore how forest communities' concerns and livelihood security are best ensured in REDD+. Certain assumptions held in common by the teams included: that REDD+ will be a reality in some form but it is likely to fail unless there is community involvement; and that lessons from community forestry in Vietnam, India and Indonesia have much potential to contribute to improved forest governance under a REDD+ regime.

The lessons of community forestry could positively influence the REDD+ debate. Community forestry elements need to be used as a tool to strengthen the rights and benefits for local communities. These can focus on tenure security; benefit-sharing arrangements; local governance; and participation in carbon monitoring. The FGLG Asia teams decided to consider the added value of REDD: what it can do for community forestry; whether it can enhance livelihoods, community rights and access; whether community capacity can be built for participation in REDD+; whether it has the potential to resolve conflicts, rather than cause them.

FGLG country strategies formed the starting point: country analyses; data and information; and sharing findings at different events, influencing national REDD+ strategy development, and providing an Asian perspective to these global events. This work was brought together in an 'experts perspectives' workshop involving FGLG teams and some key REDD protagonists in the region, hosted by RECOFTC, in Thailand in June 2011.

The full report and agenda developed by the workshop participants has been published and can be downloaded at: <http://www.recoftc.org/site/resources/REDD-Governance-and-Community-Forestry.php>



## Power Tools

Many people's lives involve the day-to-day management of natural resources. Such intimate interaction creates awareness of the technical, social and political obstacles to good management. Yet many of these people never have the opportunity to contribute to the definition of policies and institutions that govern their use of natural resources. The policy gap between the powerful and marginalised does not just involve the lack of available channels for participatory dialogue. Even when such channels exist, communication may fail due to fundamental differences in perception, expression and power between groups.

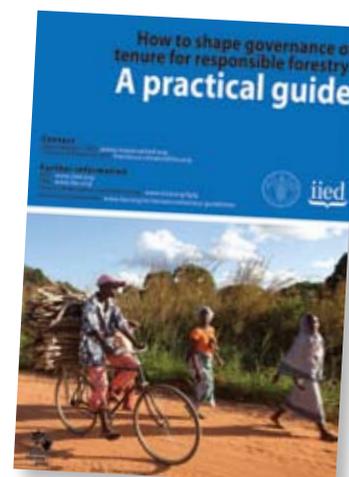
The Power Tools initiative set out to develop, test and circulate existing and new tools to bridge some of the key gaps in policy processes and content. These policy tools – tips, tactics and approaches – are designed to provide some practical help to people working to improve the policies and institutions that govern access to and use of natural resources. A first kit of tools was developed by IIED and partners a few years ago, and is available on the Power Tools website. Further tools are being compiled and explained through the 'practical guide' initiative described below – and may also become part of the Power Tools kit.

[www.policy-powertools.org](http://www.policy-powertools.org)



## How to shape governance of tenure for responsible forestry: a practical guide

IIED is working with FAO and the Forest Governance Learning Group to develop a practical guide for stakeholders who aim to improve the way governance affects tenure, so that forestry is more sustainable and contributes more to livelihoods. This is one of several guides that FAO is currently developing with a wide range of different stakeholders to assist with the implementation of the 'Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests' that will be submitted for the consideration of the 37th session of the Committee on World Food Security in October 2011. The practical guide is likely to have broader use too – it



will be available as a printed and online product – and we hope it will serve as a source of inspiration for anyone striving to improve the governance of tenure in forestry.

Drawing on principles and processes in governance, tenure and forests that have been the focus of major recent initiatives and consensus, the guide will focus on four main action areas: understanding, organising, engaging and ensuring. It will highlight key opportunities and roles of different stakeholders, and it will direct readers to further information appropriate for their needs.

A substantial toolkit - of tools, tactical processes and approaches - for use by different stakeholders working at various scales, will be an integral part of the guide. The toolkit will provide sufficient information on each tool for users to choose which to use, to find out more and to adapt it for their own purposes.

**<http://www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/forestry/how-shape-governance-tenure-for-responsible-forestry-practical>**

## Growing Forest Partnerships

Growing Forest Partnerships (GFP) is about building up and supporting networks at local, national and international levels. Through this process, GFP seeks to improve the connections between forests and other sectors. It aims to ensure that global discussions about forests include the real and current challenges that forest-dependent people and local forest managers are facing, bringing the voices of local communities and indigenous peoples forward to influence decision-making.



GFP tailors its support to each country. To establish nationally relevant concerns and areas for support, GFP organises ‘people’s diagnostics’ and other locally driven priority setting processes to identify the issues that matter locally. Since its initiation in 2008, the World Bank has provided support and FAO, IUCN and IIED have formed a ‘catalytic group’ to get GFP up and running.

GFP supports existing initiatives that are already working on the ground and fills in gaps in ongoing processes, working to build capacity and support communications. It fosters partnerships that deliver practical and policy work, through which better collaboration and new ideas emerge. It also supports people to capture lessons from these effective partnerships and processes so that they can share their experience with others in the same situation in other countries, as well as with decision- and policy-makers at international level. FGLG participants in several countries, notably in Ghana and Mozambique, have been key players in GFP’s work to date.

**[www.growingforestpartnerships.org](http://www.growingforestpartnerships.org)**

## Forest Connect

Many SMFEs work together in associations to reduce transaction costs, adapt to new market opportunities and shape the policy environment in their favour. But in least developed countries, support structures for such forest associations either do not exist or fail to reach those who need help most.

The central aim of this alliance is to connect SMFEs to national forest programmes, empowering SMFEs to be heard by policy makers; emerging markets by supporting existing SMFE associations; and service providers by strengthening their capacity to provide training and finance. Forest Connect is an initiative of IIED and FAO, with partners in many countries. Some of the governance constraints to liberating thriving SMFE sectors are tackled by FGLG teams, and various FGLG country team members are also active in Forest Connect. Conversely, some critical capacity and organisational issues beyond governance identified by FGLG are worked on by participants in the Forest Connect alliance. Guidance and information material developed in both initiatives are widely shared.



**<http://forestconnect.ning.com/>**

## The Forests Dialogue

The Forests Dialogue (TFD), formed in 2000, is an outgrowth of dialogues and activities that began separately under the auspices of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, The World Bank, IIED and the World Resources Institute. These initiatives converged to create TFD when these leaders agreed that there needed to be a unique, civil society driven, on-going, international multi-stakeholder dialogue forum to address important global forestry issues.



The Forests Dialogue now stimulates multi-stakeholder platforms for discussion, reflection and the promotion of collaborative solutions to difficult issues facing forests and people. Since its establishment, TFD has engaged more than 2,500 key stakeholders from civil society organisations, the private sector, and governments from all over the world in some 40 international dialogues.

TFD is a small but ambitious organisation, with a reach via its governing Steering Committee and Dialogue participants into institutions and organisations that are central to the future of forests and trees in landscapes. It seeks to engage stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, to explore vital but contentious issues – ‘fracture lines’ in forest uses, demands and decision-making, and to change thinking and outcomes for the better. It has, for example, provided a vehicle for concerted stakeholder inputs to Forest Law Enforcement and Governance processes in Europe and North Asia, and has spread recognition of the scale of changes required to make REDD work in the tropics. TFD work has also spawned local organisations in a range of countries determined to extend and deepen regional dialogue initiatives.

From 2011 to 2015, TFD seeks to run up to four concurrent dialogue initiatives involving up to 40 dialogues. In 2011, these initiatives are: REDD readiness; Free, Prior and Informed Consent; Investing in locally controlled forestry; and the ‘4Fs’ dialogues – changing outlooks on food, fuel, fibre and forests. A fifth dialogue on the potential role of GM trees within intensively managed planted forests will also be scoped. To maximise the effectiveness of these dialogue streams, we will sharpen our communication and knowledge management processes over the same period, coordinating the use of information before, during and post-dialogue and targeting materials to key stakeholders.

Many FGLG participants have been involved in TFD dialogues, while FGLG represents a key pathway for impact with levels of agreement reached in dialoguing. For example, FGLG players have been key in catalysing a re-shape of REDD readiness plans in Ghana following dialogue work there. James Mayers, who facilitates FGLG, is also currently the Co-Leader of TFD.

**[www.theforestdialogue.org](http://www.theforestdialogue.org)**

## International Model Forest Network

The International Model Forests Network will be holding two events in 2011 in Spain, visiting a model forest created in 2006. The initial meeting is about ecosystems and landscape management, with aspects of governance and data management, to take stock of the lessons learned over the past decade. In connection, every two years there is also a global forum on model forests. FGLG participants are well-linked to the IMFN - most notably in the Central African region, where Chimère Diaw, convener of FGLG Cameroon, also heads the Africa Model Forests Network.

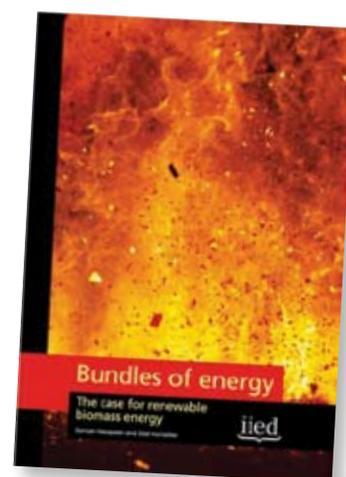
**<http://www.imfn.net/>**



## Biomass energy

IIED is developing a consortium approach to encouraging a transition from illegal charcoal production to legal sustainable efficient energy production. The objective of this work is to develop a world class interdisciplinary South-South-North research partnership and strategy that reshapes the impact of a predicted large-scale expansion in global biomass energy use towards greater poverty reduction and maintenance of ecosystem services in developing countries. Several FGLG participants, notably in Malawi, have so far been involved in this developing initiative and more are likely to follow.

For background to this work see: <http://www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/forestry/bundles-energy-case-for-renewable-biomass-energy>

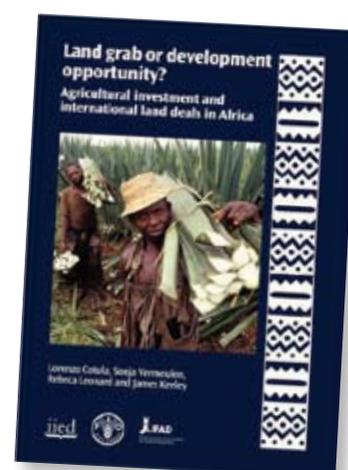


## Land grabs

There has been work on land grabs from various parties and this is potentially interesting in terms of who is buying the land and how is it affecting REDD.

There is an increasingly vibrant network on tracking investments that appear over large tracts of lands that appear mysterious, which could be either a positive or negative phenomenon. Potentially, this issue of questionable investments in land could be of increasing importance in our context. This work may link with work on agribusiness and biomass, amongst others. Land grab issues have to date been of particular concern to FGLG teams in Uganda, Mozambique, Tanzania and Ghana.

<http://www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/empowerment-and-land-rights/land-grab-or-development-opportunity>



*'Two widespread cross-cutting phenomena are troubling; the first is a tendency for recentralisation, which is occurring on resource rights. The second is that the land available for communities is now vanishing at a fast rate. This land grab, in Africa and globally, is happening very fast and may soon make REDD meaningless if it is unchecked.'*

**Simon Anstey - WWF East Africa**

## 5 Conclusion

**‘Just forest governance’ has become something of a catchphrase for FGLG – indicating the sole and dedicated focus on governance, but also insinuating ‘justice’ as the main concern. The phrase also implies perhaps that forest governance is an everyday business – at its core a very simple and sane thing – and FGLG likes this implication.**

Opportunities and dilemmas in REDD+ have become central concerns for most FGLG country teams as processes to establish and pursue national strategies gain strength. On top of this, 2011 is the United Nations International Year of Forests – and with the secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests and others doing a great job in bringing attention to forest issues there are great opportunities for practical thinking on forest governance to take a turn in the spotlight.

FGLG is trying to make its research, tools and capability count. It is trying to show how much greater attention can be given to the key role that forest owner families and communities play in maintaining forests and to strengthening their capacity to play that role. This means giving them commercial rights over timber, non-timber forest products, carbon and other ecosystem services, based on secure tenure, with freedom of association and access to markets, technology and finance. FGLG is pushing for broader recognition of the essential role of this locally controlled forestry, and is joining with others – in-country, and internationally linked to initiatives like Growing Forest Partnerships and Forest Connect. It is through the work of such alliances that the core building blocks of better forest decision making – rights and the capabilities to exercise them – might finally be put together, in the right places, by the right people.

FGLG expects to have its next main learning event in Vietnam in March 2012. There is much on the country teams’ agendas before then and doubtless much after. The key will be whether we can help ratchet up progress – towards just forest governance.



*Both concessionaires and local communities need greater incentive to grow trees commercially, for example by developing nurseries and replanting with valuable commercial trees.*

*Photo © Mike Goldwater*

# Annex 1.

## Learning event programme and report on main sessions

### Social justice in forestry

Learning events for sharing and spreading experience

Programme for the 7th international learning event:

7- 10 December 2010, Namaacha, Mozambique



Theme: Just Forest Governance – for REDD, for Sanity

Date	Time	Activity
6 Dec		Arrival
	18:00-19:00	<b>Registration</b>
	19:30	Dinner
7 Dec	<b>Day 1: Assessing progress</b>	
	8 :30-10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Opening remarks</b> - National Director of Land and Forest</li> <li>● <b>Welcoming remarks</b> - Namaacha District Administrator</li> <li>● <b>Update on FGLG progress internationally</b> - IIED representative, including 5-minute film</li> </ul>
	10:30 –11:00	Coffee break
	11:00-11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Introductions of participants</b></li> <li>● <b>Introduction and discussion of the learning event programme</b></li> </ul>
	11:30-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Assessing progress by country teams – first of two parallel sessions.</b> Two rooms, each with five country teams. Two country teams present progress in each room – each for a maximum of 20 minutes, followed by a further 25 minutes (max) for a peer review panel made up of four members from other country teams, while other participants note questions and issues on post-it notes. Outstanding issues to be taken up on Day 4.</li> </ul>
	13:00-14:00	Lunch
	14:00 –16:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Assessing progress by country teams – second of two parallel sessions.</b> Continue as with session prior to lunch – with three more country teams presented and reviewed.</li> </ul>
	16:15-16:45	Tea break
	16:45-17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Review of progress assessment.</b> Participants from each room in the last two sessions move to the other room, take a look at the material on the wall from the presentations and discussions they have not seen, and add questions and issues on post-it notes.</li> </ul>
	19:30	Dinner Entertainment – traditional dance

Date	Time	Activity
8 Dec	<b>Day 2: Exploring ‘what we need to tell REDD initiatives about forest governance’</b>	
	8:00-8:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Re-cap of Day 1</li> </ul>
	8:30-10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Governance and REDD introduction and update</b> – IIED team. 10 minutes</li> <li>● <b>REDD Process in Mozambique</b> – FGLG Mozambique team. 10 mins</li> <li>● <b>Community forestry and REDD in Asia</b> – FGLG Asia teams. 10 mins</li> <li>● <b>Update on other REDD initiatives</b> – all participants</li> <li>● <b>Discussion</b> – themes and issues captured for follow-up in next session</li> </ul>
	10:30-11:00	Coffee break
	11:00 –12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Lessons from experience with REDD to date – distilling key messages to those shaping REDD from FGLG.</b> Four working groups on areas that challenge REDD+ (identified in the morning’s prior discussion), possibly grouped as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement and capacity</li> <li>• Rights and legal reform</li> <li>• Costs and benefit distribution</li> <li>• Integration with wider decision-making</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	12:30-13:30	Lunch
	13:30-15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Working groups continue then deliver key messages in form of ‘TV News’ in plenary</b> – and issues captured for follow-up on Day 4</li> </ul>
	15:00-15:30	Tea break
	15:30-16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>China-Africa learning platform</b> – update. 10 minutes</li> <li>● <b>Mozambique-Malawi fuelwood study exchange</b> – update. 10 minutes</li> <li>● <b>‘Power Tools’</b> – update. 10 minutes</li> <li>● <b>The Forest Dialogue, Growing Forest Partnerships, Forest Connect, Biomass energy and other initiatives</b> with which FGLG engages – update. 10 minutes</li> <li>● <b>Brief discussion</b> – after each of the above items, with issues noted to follow-up on Day 4</li> </ul>
	16:30-17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Fish bowl debate</b> – on 1-3 key intractable issues identified through Day 1 and 2</li> </ul>
19:30	Dinner Screening of films: <i>Justice in the Forests</i> (four films, each 10-25 minutes, on Malawi, Uganda, Vietnam and Ghana, plus 5-minute and 20-minute overview films) and <i>If a tree falls: the Mozambican forest at risk</i> (15 minute film about REDD in Mozambique)	

Date	Time	Activity
9 Dec	<b>Day 3: Getting into the field</b>	
	6:00	● <b>Departure to the field</b>
	8:00 – 13:00	● <b>Field work</b>
	13:00-14:30	● <b>Travel from field to <i>Barragem dos Pequenos Libombos</i></b>
	14:30-15:30	● <b>Lunch at <i>Barragem dos Pequenos Libombos</i></b>
	15:30-16:00	● <b>Visit to the Dam of <i>Pequenos Libombos</i></b>
	16:00	● <b>Return to Namaacha</b>
19:00	Dinner Entertainment – rap by the most famous Mozambican rapper Azagaia	
10 Dec	<b>Day 4: Planning ahead</b>	
	8:00 – 9:30	● Field teams from Day 3 prepare short reports ● Recap of Day 2 and delivery of reports from field teams
	9:30-10:30	● <b>Ideas for 2011 work</b> – country teams, China-Africa platform and country team exchange initiatives – each lay out their main ideas for actions in 2011. For country teams, list actions under output headings from their 2010-2013 work plans. Participants involved with different teams move between teams.
	10:30	Coffee – without break!
	10:30-12:00	● <b>Buying and selling ideas amongst teams.</b> Each team has some initial 'FGLG dollars' to spend on others' ideas and can also sell its own ideas. ● Teams consolidate and display an outline of their 2011 work plan
	12:00-13:30	Lunch and check-out from rooms
	13:30-15:00	● Evaluation of the event ● Future events - discussion ● Just Forest Governance – for REDD, for Sanity – further developing our key messages from Day 2 for those shaping REDD and related processes
	15:00-15:30	● Closing Session - Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Environment (MICOA)
	15:45	● Departure to Maputo, Girassol Hotel
	17:30-18:00	● Media briefing – at Girassol Hotel
	19:30	Dinner Entertainment – contemporary dance
11 Dec		<b>Departure of participants</b>

## Synopsis of events

The District Administrator and Municipality President of Namaacha welcomed the international delegates. The government representative expressed commitment to civil society participation in the management of natural resources, with fair distribution of its benefits to help alleviate poverty.

Throughout the week, the group caught up on the latest happenings for the country teams, sharing information and learning, and critically evaluating each other's progress. As the week progressed, the teams delved into the challenges surrounding Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD), drawing on lessons to date and pulling out key messages to impact forest governance.

With FGLG's focus on social justice and local control, the group took the opportunity to visit two very different examples of community forest management; the Madjadjane forest conservation project and the Ntava Yesu community project, meeting with project founders and finding out first-hand the difficulties faced and the successes achieved. This year also saw progress with developing the China-Africa forest governance platform – this was further developed in event discussions.



*After planting some tree seedlings, the women of FGLG take a moment to pose in the host town of Namaacha. Photo by James Mayers*

## Learning event work on REDD and forest governance

Small groups worked together distilling key messages to map out current work on REDD and shape FGLG's stance on the issues. They worked to four themes: types of interventions; the main themes; the common issues; and what FGLG should be doing.

### Interventions

- **Build informational and technical capacity**

Capacity needs to be built amongst communities to engage with REDD+ issues and challenges, including full participation in debates. Structures need to be put in place and technical support provided, including South-South technical information sharing. A focus should be on tactics to ensure that strategies stimulate local to national capacity development.

- **Take a multi-stakeholder approach**

There needs to be a multi-sectoral approach and networking, to establish full engagement and ownership in the process. Multi-disciplinary teams are needed and stakeholders should be identified and classified by their approach and activity. Full consultation is required for strategy development and there needs to be information sharing, sensitization and consultation with community forest organisations. FGLG has the potential here to learn across countries, shaping the REDD process and fostering cooperation. Institutional coordination is needed for this approach.

- **Keep the process local**

REDD needs to be built from the bottom up, by installing the principle of local control. Community participation is needed for pilot REDD projects, to show that they work, giving better incentives and transparent benefit sharing.

- **Ensure sustainable outcomes**

The ideal result is of sustainable community forestry, with eco certification and labelling. Sustainable resource management and utilisation should be integrated.

- **Take cross-border regional approaches**

- **Enter into the climate negotiations, FCFP, UN-REDD and FIP**

## Themes

- **Information**

Establishing reliable and fair information systems is a key component of the REDD challenge that the group was addressing. This includes considering how to establish baseline information systems to determine reductions in emissions levels; and a methodology to measure, monitor, report and validate on actions taken under REDD.

- **Involvement**

Across the groups, the level of engagement and participation was a critical issue in thinking. The need was identified for a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach, including government, private sector and civil society both to contribute to and participate in the process. Further, discussion was rife over the level of engagement with national and international processes, entering into the climate negotiations and dialogues on FCPF, UN-REDD and FIP.

- **Process**

The roles and strategies for engagement were being considered, concentrating on a bottom-up approach, focusing on who is making the decisions and what level of consultation could be considered adequate, particularly in the context of FPIC. With a view to the FGLG agenda of local control, this includes building up local capacity to understand and do what is needed to get paid.

- **Outcomes**

Thinking on REDD looked at the ideal outcomes to be achieved from the process, including community forest strategies and REDD+ initiatives; payments for ecosystem services; local forest ownership, tenure and rights, including carbon rights; good incentives and benefits for local people to participate; and strong institutional arrangements and control, with local management institutions to enable benefit distribution mechanisms at the local level.

## Issues

- **Local capacity**

There are problems with local awareness of REDD and beyond that, whether there is local buy-in to the concept – it needs to have legitimacy. REDD involves business capability and questions remain over who the sellers of carbon credits will be. Many realities of how it will work in practice remain unanswered, for example where REDD will be running against existing systems of management, how will this conflict be resolved? Pilot studies need to be undertaken.

- **National capacity**

The institutional capacity at national level is likely to be a determining factor in REDD's success or failure, and institutional transition needs to be managed sustainably. There will need to be mechanisms in place to map high cash income and local institutional change. Questions remain over whether REDD should fit into pre-existing country frameworks or if policy reform should make way for REDD where necessary. There will also need to be technical capability at the national level for REDD+ to work, including information to track degradation, which is currently insufficient. The need for awareness and capacity will extend beyond government to include NGOs and CSOs.

- **Participation**

There are issues over the level of community participation and both the depth and quality of consultation, to what extent is FPIC being applied? What are the plans for conflict resolution when these issues arise, and how can REDD be shaped to resolve this from the local to the national from the outset? There need to be solid communications strategies in place, not only in terms of REDD-readiness but also pre-preparation. Opportunities need to be created to share lessons, with in-country and regional coordination and cross-learning on REDD. As the REDD process gets underway, participation of communities needs to continue in monitoring, reporting and verification. Beyond this, the private sector also need to be engaged in the process.

- **Beyond the technical**

There remains a great deal of focus on the technical difficulties in instituting REDD and more focus needs to be put on the poverty and livelihood issues. There remains a lack of understanding on the scale of governance reform needed in government for REDD to work, and also of the scale of the challenge in reaching communities. There is a real absence of tenure that needs to be addressed before the process can work.

- **Wider strategies and cross-sector linking**

FGLG would like to see the promotion of forest governance issues integrated into REDD and REDD+. Building on the idea of reducing deforestation to zero, is this for REDD alone or a wider country strategy – how will it address the wider issues of high deforestation? There are other wider issues that REDD needs to take account of, such as how to intensify agriculture to meet growing food needs whilst reducing deforestation. If the negotiations on REDD are unsuccessful, what will happen? If it does work, there will be distributional issues, such as questions over whether past or present pollution is counted more.

- **Tangible benefits**

There need to be strategies in place to ensure security of livelihoods and fair benefit distribution, to ensure real compensation for people. The level of involvement does not seem currently to trickle down to the community level in terms of benefits. Currently REDD is being treated as hard money and if this money does not appear there are huge risks, not only in terms of the loss of trust but in terms of the loss of livelihoods and resources for those taking part.

- **Local control**

There is a sense that the REDD process is currently being controlled by governments, with a top-down, centralised approach, which is a result of an urgency to move through fixed steps; verification being required at the national level; and money being offered directly to governments. Timelines are being driven externally and there remain questions over whether landowners will take decisions freely or if there will be compliance enforced. There is also a lack of coherence on the issue of control amongst donors, some support local control whereas others do not.

*‘Once tenure is secured, what next? What do you do when you do have rights? This certainly applies in India but elsewhere too. In Mozambique people have only subsistence rights, and no incentive to stay or to protect the forest. In South Africa, land restitution means communities get high quality land but struggle to generate capacity, so it ends up being used for low value production. We need to equip people with commercial forest rights and the capacity to make use of them’.*

**Sanjay Upadhyay – FGLG India**

## What should FGLG do?

- **Conduct research**

FGLG should help to facilitate the methodology of baselines on reference emission levels, MRV and benefit sharing. They should take part in monitoring REDD finance flows against real livelihood and governance impacts, with a view to understanding whether the scheme is genuinely benefiting the poor and asking these critical questions. The research and information, including case studies, should be disseminated through all types of mediums, such as briefings and films.

- **Engage with the processes**

It remains important that FGLG is constructively engaged with all levels of the processes, even with remaining qualms. National-level influence on strategies can help to include pro-poor social justice issues and both nationally and internationally advocacy work can be done for REDD strategies based on local control. Further, to advocate for REDD+, as REDD without agriculture will not work. FGLG need to focus on the tactical level to best influence strategies.

● **Share learning**

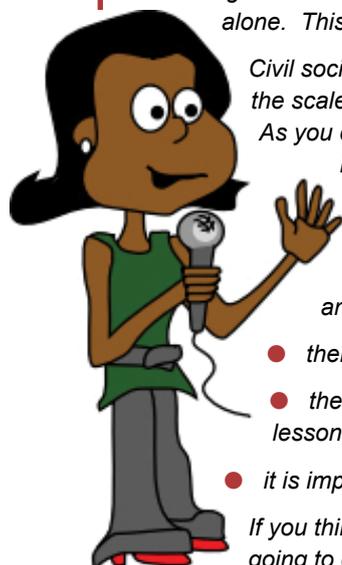
The research based learning needs to be shared to speed up the adoption of better governance strategies for REDD. Lessons can be shared amongst FGLG country teams, and we can promote inter-country exchanges and learning, particularly with a South-South focus. Key government members of FGLG can be convened across regions to share ideas and FGLG can facilitate local-national-global debates and spaces on REDD governance.

● **Take the learning forward**

The research and learning needs to be taken to the practical level for FGLG to become part of the solution, contribute to the process and help prevent illegal logging, illegal timber and shifting cultivation. This means strengthening REDD+ institutions at different levels, considering roles and responsibilities, resource mobilisation, conflict resolution and benefit sharing. This includes showing how the right information can be developed and used by the right people in the right way, keeping the language local and the message simple. FGLG can help each country to define its readiness framework and develop its policy, showing the capacity needed for locally-controlled REDD.

## FGLG-TV

Through FGLG ‘TV broadcasts’ five different buzz groups gave their impressions of the key messages about REDD to take away.



*For the past few days, we have seen the most powerful discourses around Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation. The biggest brains around the globe have concluded that the governments of participating countries are bent on controlling the REDD processes alone. This is because there is a lot of money involved.*

*Civil society organisations have emphasised that the governments need to appreciate the scale of governance reform needed. Governments have refused to heed to this.*

*As you can see in the background, James Mayers of IIED and Rito Mabunda of Mozambique cannot seem to agree on the way forward because somehow they are focused on different things.*

*FGLG have proposed the following, if we are to have a successful REDD process; hopefully some of these recommendations will bring some peace around the table:*

- *there is a need to advocate for strategies based on local control*
- *there is the need to focus on learning between FGLG countries and export lessons*
- *it is important that we advocate for REDD++ since food security is threatened*

*If you think that all of this is impossible, FGLG international and country teams are going to develop models for processes that can be used in strategy development so that we can all be at peace.*

**Presenter: Rhoda Asaa Panford**



Good afternoon – reporting from Namaacha, Mozambique with Cameroon, China, Mozambique, and Indonesia. There are some issues to be heard for the future. Firstly, the cross-cutting issues of REDD to be implemented:

- how to promote forest governance
- making REDD work for real activities
- how can REDD+ consider the local community and indigenous people to benefit

There are three kinds of activities, namely:

- how to strengthen the team in each country, by helping advocacy and dividing the roles and responsibilities
- how to speak up about good governance of REDD through sharing the lessons learned from the member countries
- how to facilitate the methodology of the baseline of emissions for monitoring, reporting and verification.

**Presenter: Bambang Supriyanto**

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the news at two thirty. These are the headlines: Billions of dollars have been stalling in Namaacha.

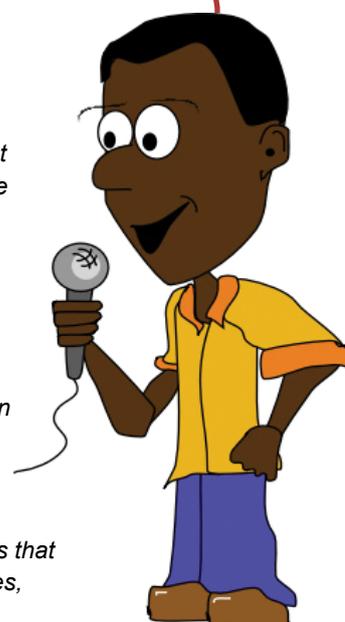
Participants have concluded that emerging themes around this afternoon's discussion on REDD have been the low level of participation of communities in the processes. It is very clear that benefits for the local communities are not reaching them, and it is very important to get these things very clear within the REDD processes.

It also emerged that the capacity within government institutions and within CSOs that negotiate on REDD is quite low, meaning that the kind of meaningful input they need is not becoming clear.

Some other issues that emanated have been the sustainability of momentum and the ability manage leadership and transitions within institutions, and within civil society organisations around REDD discussions.

It has been recommended that it is important for FGLG as a group to be able to convene the national leaders of national government planners across countries to be able to interact and harmonise within the regional programmes that they are planning. It is also important that FGLG feeds into regional processes, like FLEGT, to make meaningful impact.

**Presenter: Samuel Mawutor**



*Hello and good morning, welcome to Bangkok News.*

*Climate change is real – it threatens the lives and livelihood of people around the globe. REDD has been proposed as a solution at the international level. It has penetrated into the national and local level. How will it work? This is the big issue being discussed at the international conference at Namaacha, Mozambique. Experts from around the globe came together to exchange views on this.*

*Solutions need to be sought – solutions that work for both forests and people. A number of challenges have been identified during the conference in Namaacha, and these are not easy to address:*

- *how to set up a good and robust REDD+ strategy*
- *how to ensure fair benefits*
- *how to monitor national level implementation for REDD+*

*They are very optimistic as an international community group; they conclude that REDD will only work if local people run it and benefit from it. They have outlined activities and programmes for the next two years that will ensure that REDD and REDD+ will bring social justice to people and to forests alike. They will continue to work at national and international level to bring this voice and to make sure that this voice is heard. Thank you and stay tuned for the next update.*

**Presenter: Yurdi Yasmi**



*Here is the news from Lilongwe. At this meeting in Namaacha, four countries met to discuss REDD governance, including England, Indonesia, Malawi, Mozambique. At the end of the meeting, England decided to run away because he can't keep pushing his agenda! India decided to abstain. However, the three that remained made these conclusions.*

*REDD brings smiles and tears. Some of the issues to be dealt with include:*

- *the capacity of local institutions and of local people*
- *awareness of REDD processes and how to benefit from it*
- *issues related to carbon rights, and local control in forestry*
- *how to share benefits*

*As a way forward, the group agreed on a need to strengthen research and documentation, sharing case studies, facilitating cross-country and linkages and learning; to facilitate local and national to global debates, and creating more space for these debates; and finally to focus on developing tactics that will assist us to influence the REDD strategy.*

**Presenter: Robert Kafakoma**

## Field sites visited during the learning event, December 2010

### Madjadjane forest conservation project

This project started in 2001, initially as a community-based tourism project, facilitated by IUCN. Around 7,000 hectares of forests have been protected with between 150 and 200 households participating in the intervention.

With only a short period of interaction and a little background knowledge, clear strengths of the project could still be seen. The extensive area is a good asset to build livelihoods in a poor community; and there is the physical asset of accommodation. There is external support in the form of local and international NGOs. In terms of land, there is limited pressure compared with other communities in this region. This is an opportunity to diversify in terms of product development and market access. These assertions led to questions amongst the team – if there were competing uses for the land, or if the population were high, would the community still have managed to protect the land?

There also seem to be weaknesses and challenges to the project; in particular, the design of the intervention. Community-based tourism has not worked up to this point and IUCN, realising this after a short period, have begun to change the focus to a community development centre focusing on biodiversity research. In both of these phases, however, there seem to be a lack of a market analysis to establish the options for the area.

From the perspective of the group, there was also a lack of clarity over whether the institutional arrangement works, whether the partner organisations are clear about the community's intentions. When it came to the transition phase of the project, the group enquired about how participatory the design and institutionalisation of the management has been, and how the private sector can participate. We did not get a clear sense of this and would like to understand further. Discussions did not reach what REDD could do, but the points could probably be extrapolated: market assessment, value addition, community participation, community empowerment, gender issues. These are all relevant to REDD.



*Boys weaving mats in Madjadjane forest conservation project.  
Photo by James Mayers*

## Ntava Yesu community project

The Ntava Yesu pilot project began in 1998 with the support of FAO and had been used as a model in other areas in Mozambique. The area was chosen because of its many natural resources that have been used in an unsustainable way, largely through charcoal production and through trade – and it was an area greatly affected by the Civil War from 1976 to 1992, which made it impossible to monitor deforestation.

The project was started by the Government of Mozambique, and the local population were receptive to the idea. The global objective of the project is to help the community to preserve and manage its natural resources in a sustainable manner. The main activities allotted to the project at this time were agriculture, fishing, tourism and community reserves.

Initially, the area was divided into zones and a supervising council was put in place to develop a management plan and sensitise the local population about the risks and impacts of illegal logging and charcoal manufacturing. Plans were made to develop alternative activities and build the capacities of the community in the chosen project areas; but the impacts were weakened because of a lack of market access.

The FAO project came to an end and the community received support from a Swiss organisation, ADAPI, through whom they undertook sewing, carpentry, theatre and bee-keeping. A misunderstanding led to them ceasing to support the initiative. They now face the problems of a lack of partnership and support to finish the project, or support for other activities such as re-forestation; a lack of resources for community authorities to carry on their work; and the community not receiving the 20 per cent licence contribution that is required under law. Technical capacities were built up but there was no financial return for their work and no legally binding agreement. The community actioned all steps required of them to receive benefits but this never materialised.

Chief, M. David Mazie from the Goba community, and representatives of the Ntagayezi Association, including the secretary, vice-secretary and deputy president, engaged with FGLG in a question and answer session. There are strengths to the community in terms of their self-willingness and capacity to implement programmes. However, there is a lack of capacity to monitor and there is a lack of focus on the impact of their activities.

External supporters and institutions have provided funds for activities, technical tools, a degree of power, including recognition at national and international levels, and new legislation. There is, however, a limit to the amount of engagement possible with short-term projects, giving rise to instability, and there has been a tendency to misunderstand the real community needs, giving rise to problems over trust.

From visiting a site of traditional charcoal manufacturing and a lodge potentially to be used as a tourist destination, some further key and cross-cutting issues emerged. There are challenges over alternatives to charcoal; difficulties in accessing markets; and a dependency on outside projects.

The official management plan gives use rights to the forest, and the community should be given a 20 per cent entitlement when they catch illegal charcoal producers, and entitled to 20 per cent of licence fee of legal charcoal production within their land. The main commercial use of the forest is for charcoal production and 20 per cent of licence fees are returned to the community via the Association, which is used to seize illegal timber.

Currently, this community has the social and financial infrastructure for REDD but the community needs to be informed about the process, and the government needs the capacity to engage on this. Trust needs to be won back through pilot projects with clear benefits and a robust monitoring system that includes the social impacts. National level associations of community forestry are required to hold the government accountable.

As it stands, the population is not confident about REDD. To implement the REDD process in reality, there are many priorities. What is apparent from this community is that before starting the process, it is important to put in place guidelines - for the community, for the government, and for partners.

## Key lessons from the field experience

It was a privilege for the FGLG learning event participants to be able to visit these communities, and much food for thought was generated in the exchanges. Two major lessons stood out in subsequent discussion: firstly, the initiatives in both communities were driven by a perception in the late 1990s that land rights dynamise a community. What we see from both is that you need other components too, particularly tangible benefits to the community. Secondly, when extrapolating to look at the potential of REDD, the complexity of REDD makes the risks at community level substantially higher. REDD initiatives may be brought in and stopped by outside people just as previous initiatives have been. Rather than a 'project' mechanism, a vehicle is needed that can really empower people across generations.

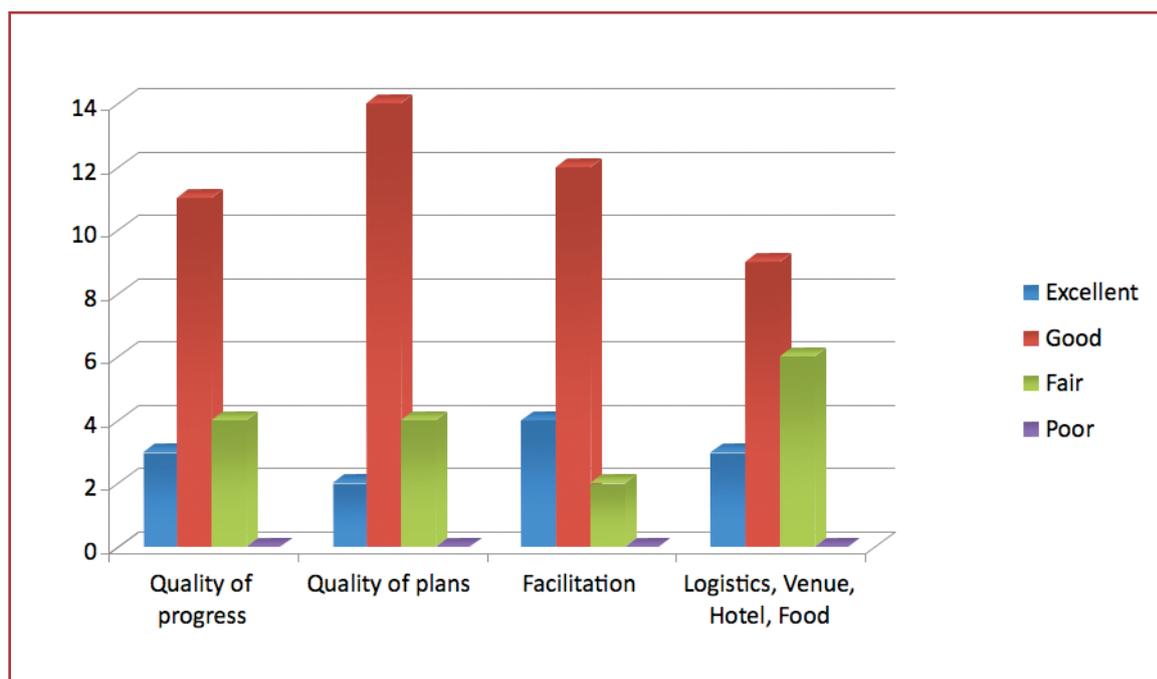


*Taking a tour of Mozambique's community forest sites.  
Photo by Carlos Serra*

## Annex 2.

# Evaluation of learning event, and plans for future events

### Feedback



### Comments

#### Positive:

- Innovative wifi hotspot creation from CTV
- Good teamwork from FGLG-Mozambique
- Wonderful theatre group and rap
- Great field trip to Goba
- Nice remote location

#### Negative:

- Instructions on activities were sometimes unclear
- Host team please prepare agenda/welcome packs on arrival so we know what to do
- Time management could have been stronger
- A facilitator to oversee whole event is more workable
- Field trip was too long a distance
- Wish we had time for relaxation and more fun! Visit seems short and full
- May want to have wider choice of food
- Would like a night out as a group

**Points for consideration:**

- Does such a packed schedule at these events hinder the group from achieving its objectives? Balancing both restrictions in people's time and getting as much out of the event as possible leaves limited options in terms of number of days and time of year, despite some reservations about both.
- Preparation for different parts was highlighted several times; for example widening accessibility to other initiatives by having a shared calendar of events or a board with contact details, rather than presented in plenary. This would perhaps give more time for in-depth issue-based discussion, such as for REDD.
- There is concern that REDD is engulfing the project, being a main point of conversation both this year and last – there are other issues that need attention.

**On the field trip:**

- Could we arrange the field trips so that the group have more of a positive and beneficial impact on the communities visited? There is a need for more interaction with local people, which could perhaps be achieved by either extending the event or preparing more thoroughly beforehand.
- A suggestion for how to achieve this more thoroughly was to be based within a community for the duration of the learning event, organising these events more 'on the ground'. This could also be a means to mitigate doing events in a superficial way, where we worry more about the distance travelled than the content and learning.
- Proposal: a questionnaire goes round to teams to establish broad view on this.



*A break in proceedings on Day 2, with Sanjay Upadhyay, Vishaish Uppal, Chimère Diaw, Ratna Akiefnawati, Marie-Madeleine Bassalang, and James Mayers.*

*Photo by Carlos Serra*

## Future learning event

The next international learning event will be in Vietnam, 26-30 March 2012.

## Annex 3.

# Mozambique, forests and REDD

***The following is based on a presentation by Bernard Guedes at the learning event, and on work subsequently done at the learning event. It has been updated by Isilda Nhantumbo.***

Some 51 per cent (40.1 million ha) of Mozambique's land is covered in forest, excluding other wooded lands (which cover another 20 per cent of the country's surface). 67 per cent (26.9 million ha) of these forests have high potential for timber production. 22 per cent are forest reserves. The forest has been threatened with both deforestation due to agriculture, biomass energy, mining and general infrastructure development and degradation mostly resulting from selective logging practices (both legal and illegal) and widespread use of fire as tool for agriculture and hunting. There is insufficient information about the extent of degradation in the country because of poor implementation and monitoring of management plans, however there is relatively reliable information on deforestation based on inventories published in 1994 and 2007.

Between 1970 and 1990 the deforestation level was 0.21 per cent annually. This was the result of agricultural expansion, energy demands, and so forth. As a result of that, the peace process and resettlement of population from 1992, the deforestation rate has increased to 0.58 per cent and we are now losing about 219,000 hectares per year. Deforestation rate for 2010 is estimated to be about 0.72 per cent and the country could reach almost 1 per cent by 2020 if nothing is done to address the problem.

## Mechanisms

Mozambique is committed to addressing this issue of deforestation and degradation. Its 1997 Forest and Wildlife policy establish the provisions to improve management and the international mechanisms such as FCCC provide added impetus and possibly resources to address not just the problem, but its root causes. The Norwegian government have been supporting Mozambique through the South-South REDD project; the government of Mozambique represented by the Ministry of Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA) and Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG) and Fundação Amazonas Sustentável (FAS) from Brazil are working together; Mozambique is also benefiting from the technical support of IIED, the Eduardo Modlane University (UEM), Centro Terra Viva (CTV) and Indufor.

It has been selected to benefit from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) funding and is currently in the process of designing the Readiness Preparation Proposal. A national REDD working group (NRWG) has been created, with the MICOA and MINAG coordinating the structure with support of FAS and it includes all the institutions previously mentioned, representatives of other sectors of government international and national NGOs and private sector<sup>4</sup>.

## Formulating the National REDD Action Plan

The strategy was developed based on a detailed consultation process. The national working group defined the methodology and six provinces were selected for the consultation: Zambezia, Nampula, Gaza, Maputo, Tete, Sofala and Niassa undertaken in the capital of province with invited representatives of all districts. The objective was to provide information on what REDD is and elicit information on people's perspectives about what REDD can do for the country.

In parallel with the consultations, a multi-disciplinary team conducted field studies looking at the drivers of deforestation and degradation at that level and actions undertaken towards sustainable forest management and gather preliminary information to determine opportunity costs of changing land use practices. With ten provinces in the country, the aim was to try to bring everyone on board in discussions, conducting regional discussions to bring provinces together. These were undertaken in Maputo for the South, Beira (Centre) and Nampula for the North. All decisions regarding the scope and scale, the issue of reference levels, and of monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) were discussed during these meetings and decisions were taken in the process. The consultations also contributed to identification of REDD+ pilot areas.

<sup>4</sup> Yet to be brought on board.

The draft action plan was presented in Nampula in July. It was a validation of all the decisions that had been made and of the proposal in terms of activities to be implemented. The action plan is currently under discussion in MINAG and MICOA and CONDES (The National Council for Sustainable Development).



*New Eucalypt plantations are being established in Mozambique by companies such as Green Resources, but these may simply displace local people who may clear more native woodland.*

*Photo © Mike Goldwater*

## The future

The country has the national action plan developed, and internal consultations are continuing between the ministries of environment and agriculture. Aside from the national action plan, the group produced briefing notes about the issues within REDD: such as the scope and scale, reference levels and MRV.

Some objectives underlie the national REDD action plan: one of the possible scenarios that the country might consider is reducing the current official deforestation rate of 0.58 per cent to the levels of the 1970s – 0.21 per cent by 2025. That would reduce about 50 million tonnes of carbon. We also think that with a true implementation of the ‘plus’ component, we will be able to create additional capacity to sequester carbon through implementation of the National Action Plan for Reforestation, which contemplates plantations for conservation, for energy besides industrial plantations.

The action plan runs to 2025, and reductions must be monitored. The long term objective is to reduce deforestation to zero. There are strategic objectives that were defined to reach the goals we set before, primarily, a platform for inter-institutional coordination to address the causes of deforestation and degradation in the country.

It is important to have a strong coordination mechanism, and this is the proposal we put forward in the national REDD action plan and for strategy to be developed. We are proposing to establish a technical unit to try to address the major challenge of implementing REDD. We will have a technically strong component to comprising three operational components including (a) MRV and (b) administration and (c) implementation. The unit is a technical independent body with a national REDD council comprising government, academia, research, private sector, NGOs and banks as an observer to facilitate sectoral coordination and policy influence. This entity will be chaired alternatively by MICOA and MINAG.

We were not able to dwell much on the institutional set up at the local level but we envisage to consult during the dissemination of the action plan on how to set up to the district and the provincial level, ensuring minimum capacity to address key elements of REDD+ will be in place (a, b and c above). There are still other issues the country needs to discuss – carbon rights and benefit sharing. It remains important to produce briefings and to provoke discussion. Finally, we have the issue of ‘plus’. The action plan considers rehabilitation of degraded lands and agro-forestry as plus activities but there remains the possibility of large-scale plantations taking advantage of REDD funding.

# Annex 4:

## Participants at FGLG learning event, Mozambique December 2010

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During the week, we were also joined for part or all of the time by Artur Xindadane, Administrator of Namaacha District; Jorge Rafael Tinga, Municipality President of Namaacha; Anselmina Liphola, National Director of Environmental Management; independent journalist and filmmaker, Neil Shaw; Herculano Vilancuros, Kuwaka, Mozambique; Bruno Mota, Niassa Reserve; Joao Augusto Cipriano, Ministry of Environmental Affairs; Informatic Technician, Belmiro Come; and journalist Lino Manuel.

We were also entertained throughout the course of the workshop by various local artists, including theatre from Grupo Teatral Xigulumbane; dancing from Grupo Cultural de Tinonganine and Associacao Grupo de Canto e Danca Milorho; and rap from Edson da Luz (Azagaia).



*FGLG participants in the learning event of December 2010 convene outside Hotel Xisaka in Namaacha, Mozambique*

# Just forest governance – for REDD, for sanity

Progress made by the Forest Governance Learning Group



In ten forest hotspot countries across Africa and South Asia, the IIED-steered Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) has been working since 2003 on ways to shift power over forests towards those who enable and pursue sustainable forest-linked livelihoods. Teams in each of these countries have developed practical tactics for securing safe space, sparking dialogue, building constituencies, wielding evidence and interacting politically. FGLG has produced films about tackling forest governance issues that work locally and internationally, as well as local theatre pieces, comics, and targeted policy briefs and opinion pieces. This report aims to capture the current thinking and plans of FGLG. It also highlights some of the key impacts of FGLG work since early 2010 and puts a particular focus on the intersection of REDD+ and forest governance issues.

Recent in-country FGLG team work can be characterised as follows:

- Cameroon – opportunities seized for increasing local benefits from forests
- Ghana – collusion and collision of top down and bottom up governance reform approaches
- India – stepping up high-level engagement on forest rights
- Indonesia – REDD+ for community-based forest management
- Malawi – following through on sustainable charcoal options
- Mozambique – serious evidence and funny comics on forest transparency
- Africa and Asia – small forest enterprise governance in land reform and industrial policy
- Tanzania – rights, small forest enterprise and REDD+
- Uganda – critiquing key institutions without bringing them down
- Vietnam – community title at the heart of prospects for FLEGT and REDD+

FGLG teams are increasingly insistent that REDD+ strategies must stop avoiding what has been painfully learnt about the importance of rights, capacity, and motivation for good forest management and livelihoods. REDD+ must be locally controlled, and FGLG teams expect to continue to help make them so – it's just forest governance.

