

access to forest resources and the kinds of the forest produce to be cut and/or removed from the forest are properly listed in the community partnership agreements.

Any person who intends to conduct any activity or project which may or is likely to have a significant impact on a forest is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). A license will only be given for forestry purposes.

All licenses granted by any forest management institution/responsible body in a gazetted Forest Reserve (Central or Local Forest Reserves) or community Forest are supposed to jointly authorize the carrying out of activities or projects which are envisaged in the approved forest management plan and must be for forestry purposes.

## What is meant by the term “Forestry purposes”?

The term “Forestry purposes” means activities related to either of the following:-

- Growing of forest produce
- Protection of forest produce

- Harvesting of forest produce

### Or to the:

- To the provision of environmental services as described in the forest management plan for the respective forest reserve. It is difficult to give environmental services a definite description. However, these are simply the services that the environment provides e.g. *what do forests provide us with?* Forests protect catchment areas, absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, protect hilly and steep areas from soil erosion, and provide a habitat (home) for other animals. It is important to note that the environmental services in this case are usually provided by strict nature reserves. In the management plan, licensees of the responsible body/ forest management institution may provide environmental services like tree planting, tending the forest plantation, fire management, deterrence of illegal activities within the forest.



### SIMPLIFICATION OF THE NATIONAL FORESTRY AND TREE PLANTING ACT 8/2003

## SENSITISATION PACK No: 4

# THE BASICS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND ACCESS TO FOREST RESOURCES IN UGANDA

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For more information, please contact our Legal Unit under the Executive Director's Office located at:-

### The National Forestry Authority

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## How are forests in Uganda managed?

All forests in Uganda be they private or community owned or under management of a cultural or traditional institution or gazetted Forest Reserves are managed in accordance with a Forest Management Plan which is prepared by a forest management institution/responsible body and submitted to the Minister responsible for Forestry for his/her approval before the plan can be implemented. The Minister may delegate the authority to approve forest management plans to another person. In order to manage any kind of forest, one needs to apply scientific, economic and social forestry principles in order to achieve specific forest objectives. This method of management is intended to enhance the sustainable use and management of forest resources in Uganda.

## What is a forest management plan?

This is a written explanation of how a forest management institution intends or plans to manage a particular Forest. It will contain the

following particulars:-

- A description of all matters relating to the forest, the forest produce and use of the forest produce as at the time of making the plan.
- The type of activities which are intended to be carried out in the forest.
- The management objectives of the forest.
- The measures to be put in place in order to ensure the sustainable management of the forest.
- The extent to which the local communities will be involved in the management of the forest resources (*this is not a requirement when drawing a management plan for a private forest*).
- The resources likely to be available to enable the implementation of the management plan.
- Provide any other information that the Minister responsible for Forestry may request for.

The contents of every management plan shall be explained to the respective local communities where the forests are situated.

## How often shall a forest management plan be revised or updated?

A forest management plan shall be revised by a forest management institution every five (5) years or within such a time as the Minister responsible for Forests may prescribe.

## How can any person access forest resources?

Anyone who meets the requirements of a particular forest management institution / responsible body like the National Forestry Authority, District Forestry Office, private Forest owner can be allowed to access forest resources in the Central Forest Reserves or the Local Forest Reserves or Community forests or private forests through the issuance of a license to cut/extract, take and remove any forest produce from the forest.

In cases where the forest management institution / responsible body has entered into partnership with a local community for purposes of co-managing any forest / forest reserve, the details relating to the particular community's