



# THE 'WATER TOWERS' OF EAST AFRICA: POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR ENHANCING CO-BENEFITS FROM JOINT FOREST AND WATER CONSERVATION

INCEPTION WORKSHOP REPORT FOR MT ELGON FOREST IN UGANDA

Pretoria Hotel, Mbale Uganda

September 21, 2017



Lancaster University



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## ACRONYMS

CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
AUPWAE	Association for Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment
BUFORECA	Bunyafa Forestry Conservation Association
CBO	Community Based Organization
CFM	Collaborative Forest Management
CMP	Catchment Management Plan
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NFA	National Forestry Authority
PAC	Project Advisory Committee
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
WMZ	Water Management Zones

## Foreword

The inception workshop for the project- The ‘Water Towers’ of East Africa: Policies and practices for enhancing co-benefits from joint forest and water conservation-was held in Mbale, Uganda on 21 September, 2017. The workshop follows the reconnaissance and scoping exercises, which were conducted by the project team in June and July respectively. Relevant stakeholders and their activities in the sites, including communities to be involved were identified during the scoping visit. Furthermore, information collected from the field would inform the development of implementation work plans. Following the scoping visit, the project team agreed to hold the inception workshop in Mbale, Uganda.

The workshop was organized by CIFOR, in partnership with Makerere University and the Association for Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment (AUPWAE). The beneficiaries are community members through their Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) groups and Water Committees in two sites, Kapchorwa and Bududa. Participants included representatives of the following institutions:

- Forest and water user groups
- Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda
- GIZ Representative
- Catchment management committee representatives-Awaji and Mpologoma catchment areas
- Directorate of Water Resources Management in Mbale
- National Forestry Authority (NFA) Sector manager
- Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)
- Local government representatives (Water, Natural Resources, Community Development Officers
- NGO representatives

The objectives of the inception workshop were to introduce the project to stakeholders in the Mt. Elgon forest ecosystem; to review partner activities in the project sites; and to identify project advisory committee members and discuss their terms of reference. The workshop was facilitated by the team from CIFOR, Nairobi, Makerere University and AUPWAE. This report highlights the proceedings of the workshop.

## INTRODUCTION

### Welcome Remarks- Prof. Abwoli Banana, Makerere University

Prof. Banana Abwoli from Makerere University welcomed participants to the inception workshop. He reiterated the need to view forests and water resources as interrelated entities and the need for joint management of these resources to ensure communities continue to achieve livelihood benefits. Referring to various interactions and activities that occur in the Water tower areas such as Mt. Elgon, and diverse stakeholders working in these areas, he underscored the urgent need for policies and practice options that will enhance benefits among communities living in these area.

### Remarks by Grace Okiror, AUPWAE

Mrs. Grace Okiror gave her remarks on behalf of the AUPWAE chairperson. She highlighted AUPWAE's role and mission, which is focused on improving the welfare of women through lobbying and advocacy for policies and interventions that improve their skills in managing environmental resources. She was grateful that planned capacity development activities in the 'Water towers' project will provide an opportunity for AUPWAE to empower the rural women. She alluded to the National Development Plan 2 for Uganda, which has a component on forests and ecological systems. She concluded by highlighting that the water towers project will contribute to the development plan.

### Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) - Wilson Katamigwa

The Acting chief Warden for Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Mr. Wilson Katamigwa, highlighted previous transboundary interventions that UWA had carried out in the Mt. Elgon region. One of these projects is the Mt. Elgon Regional Ecosystem Conservation Programme (MERECP). He underscored the need to continue supporting interventions which address conservation goals. He mentioned some of the main challenges faced in addressing degradation. These include boundary issues, which UWA is facing with communities in Mt. Elgon area. However, there are ongoing efforts to involve communities in the affected areas to address this challenge, and to ensure restoration objectives are achieved. On behalf of the Chief Warden, he assured the team of UWA's support to the water towers project.



*Photo: Prof. Abwoli Banana (left), and Mrs. Grace Okiror (Right) giving opening remarks*

### Opening remarks by Dr. Bob Kazungu, Ministry of Water and Environment

The workshop was officially opened by Dr. Bob Kazungu, representing the Commissioner, Forestry Sector Support Department in the Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda. He made reference to two components of the Water towers project, which are of great interest to the Ministry. These include the governance of forest and water resources, and application of low-cost monitoring technologies of water and forest health and forest mapping methods in the Mt Elgon ecosystem in Kenya and Uganda. Dr. Kazungu reiterated the challenges facing the environment sector, which include limited access to both quality and quantity of water for the communities, limited availability of wood for both commercial and domestic use as a result of deforestation and forest degradation. These challenges are exacerbated by the extreme climate change effects at national and global levels.

To respond to the challenges highlighted, the Ministry of Water and Environment initiated a programme, the Joint Water and Environment Sector Support Programme (2013-2018), which has 8 components. Component 6 provides for the support to Water Management Zones (WMZs), and component 7 for the Environment and Natural Resources. The programme is implemented against the 5 year Strategic Planning Framework, 2014-2018 and ensures enhanced performance of the 2 subsectors of water and environment and focuses on joint implementation. It ushered in the concepts of Integrated Water Resources Management and catchment management. In addition, the government has committed to restore degraded lands through both national

commitments under the National Development Plan (NDP 2) to restore up to 18% by 2020, 24% by 2040 and 21% by 2030 under the NDC/ National communication as required by the UNFCCC. In addition, there is a global commitments to restore 2.5m ha by 2035 under the Bonn challenge. On the positive note, the prevailing policies and legislation both for the water and environment sector are supportive for enhanced natural resources management.

Dr. Kazungu acknowledged CIFOR and its partners, Makerere University and AUPWAE, who have over time implemented projects and worked with the central government and local governments to find solutions to the challenges mentioned, but importantly tackling issues of forest governance. These include enhanced governance of natural resources in terms of enhancing gender participation and interrogating through research the problems facing the natural resources sector.

He mentioned that the Ministry of Environment acknowledged the need to tackle the ever increasing natural resource related challenges the Mount Elgon ecosystem and a number of partners are implementing projects all intended to ensure that the fragile ecosystem is protected from challenges pertaining to degradation of landscapes. In the landscape, the sister Ministries for instance the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) is implementing SLM and CSA projects with support from COMESA, UNDP, and IUCN, who are also implementing Farmer radio and SLM projects. In addition, the Ministry of Water and Environment has provided additional funds to the Water Resource and Sanitation Project (WSSP 2) in Bududa, Namisindwa and Bukwo.

Other initiatives include restoration of degraded areas to ensure sustainable water flow in the gravity flow schemes under the Kyoga Water Management Zone (KMZ) under the Mpologoma catchment plan. Riverbank and streambank management are some of the planned activities in Bududa focus in Namisindwa. Other initiatives include the Sio transboundary water resources project. The REDD+ project is undertaking the Early actions off set initiatives in Mt. Elgon. The FIEFOC Project will initiate irrigation schemes in Kween. UWA has some specific projects geared towards restoring the Mt. Elgon national park and the Community Tree planting project implementation under the NFA.

Whereas it is acknowledged that there were various initiatives in the Mt. Elgon area, which is considered a hotspot area. The question is, where is the problem despite having these conservation initiatives? One of the issues is governance of these resources as highlighted by the project. Also, how can we enhance governance of these resources? One way is the need to know how to monitor the water and forest health together with communities. This is one aspect that the Water towers project will contribute towards.

In conclusion, Dr. Kazungu shared recommendations that could help during project implementation. First, the need to harness the existing initiatives and develop synergies during implementation. The Ministry will be ready to offer any policy guidance required. Secondly, the project being transboundary needs to link with the Transboundary Water Resource Management department in the Ministry of Water and Environment. He expressed his appreciation to CIFOR for the continuous support to sustainable forest management, and continued proposal initiation for bankable projects, this being one of it, among others.



*Photo: Dr. Bob Kazungu opening the inception workshop*

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### The 'Water Towers' project overview-Douglas Bwire, CIFOR

The Water towers project overview was presented by Douglas Bwire, on behalf of the project leader, Dr. Esther Mwangi. The presentation captured an overview of CIFOR and the thematic working areas, and the three pillars which guide CIFOR work to achieve impact. The center's vision is a more equitable world where forestry and landscapes enhance the environment and well-being for all, while the mission is to advance human well-being, equity and environmental integrity by conducting innovative research, developing partners' capacity and actively engaging in dialogue with all stakeholders to inform policies and practices that affect forests and people. CIFOR is headquartered in Bogor, Indonesia, and has hubs in Nairobi, Kenya, Yaoundé, Cameroon, and Lima, Peru.

CIFOR has six thematic work areas that are aligned to the SDGs. These include:

1. Forests and Human Well Being: The theme covers all the livelihood issues around forests

2. Sustainable Landscapes and Food: A new theme that looks at food security from the forest angle

3. Equal Opportunities, Gender, Justice, and Tenure:

The current project falls within this theme. It involves work on gender and tenure aspects and work to strengthen women's rights around forests and trees.

4. Climate Change, Energy and Low-Carbon Development:

Work has been conducted on REDD, adaptation and projects focusing on energy

5. Value Chains, Finance and Investments

The theme answers questions on investments and effect forests and people. For instance, large

6. Forest Management and Restoration:

The theme covers forest restoration aspects of the forest such as natural regeneration among others.

In addition to the six themes, there is the Global Landscapes Forum, which provides a forum for dialogue and engagement. To achieve its work, CIFOR work is guided by three pillars. These are research for impact, capacity development, outreach and engagement.

The main gap that informed the project is the need to understand how forest associations and water associations function independently and jointly and their effects on forests and water health. The project is interdisciplinary in nature, which combines biophysical monitoring with governance assessment. It builds on the previous CIFOR work in the Mau forest in Kenya, which examined the impact of various land use on water. The results of the initial work showed that there was a connection between forest health and water quality.

The aims of the project are to:

1. Generate evidence that will be used to identify policy and practice options
2. Conduct local level workshops for sharing and validating knowledge
3. Develop and implement capacity strengthening programs in forest and water monitoring, cross-resource coordination, gender integration, community participation, negotiation and legal literacy

The project is organized in three work packages. These are:

**1. *Vulnerability analysis and exploration of measures to conserve forest and water as linked systems***

The package will explore the forest health change; drivers and impacts of forest/land-cover change; water supply and quality; indicators of ecosystem health and low cost implementation mechanisms, local institutions and value-chain analysis of major biomass fluxes and impacts on land-use types.

**2. *Analysis of institutions for the governance of forest and water resources***

This package will explore the rights and responsibilities; mechanisms for coordination and joint action; incentives for coordination and joint action; constraints and enablers of joint coordination; leadership and gender.

### **3. Capacity strengthening, outreach and dissemination**

The work in this package will focus on implementing activities. It involves training citizen scientists in assessing, monitoring, recording and analyzing forest and water health. Also strengthening capacities in conflict resolution, participation, negotiation, and gender concepts, technical and managerial aspects, developing manuals and providing a forum for validating the findings.

The project has five main outputs, which are:

1. Assessments and analyses provide empirical evidence of the status of social-ecological systems
2. Enhanced understanding of effects of gender differentiation on functions of CFAs and WRUAs and implications for resource condition
3. Identified governance arrangements that are equitable and foster forest and water management
4. Knowledge and communication products for strengthening capacity of CFAs and WRUAs members, leaders in forest and water governance
5. Communications materials for local level awareness raising and dissemination of the research findings

## Questions and comments

Participants provided feedback on various areas that they thought the project could consider. These include the following:

1. Most of the rivers pass through farming areas after they leave the national park, and wetlands, which have been encroached due to farming activities: will it be possible for the project to consider monitoring water in areas which are not covered by forest in such wetland areas?

Work package 1 on biophysical assessment will address monitoring. This will build from previous forest monitoring work in the Mau forest by CIFOR and Lancaster University. The team will consider how best this can be integrated in the work package.

2. How to address the challenges that come as a result of involving communities in monitoring. It was noted that there is usually a challenge on remuneration to community members involved. Therefore, the question is, what is the best incentive for involving communities in monitoring?

The question was also raised during stakeholder engagement in Kenya sites. It is among the questions that the project seeks to answer under work package one, which will address the larger question on institutional arrangements and governance aspects that need to be in place to foster joint forest and water management.

3. Community participation in water monitoring was an issue that needed to be considered, specifically, how to motivate communities to participate more. The Directorate of Water Resources usually provides a small token such as providing bicycles to gauge readers and protective gear such as rain coats to motivate them read the gauges. However, there are still challenges with participation.

4. *How to ensure quality of the data collected by community members?*

One way is to compare with the monitoring stations from the water authorities. The results of the previous work by CIFOR and Lancaster University in the Mau complex showed that communities can collect quality data. This was checked by comparing the data collected by the community members and automated stations from the Water Resources Authority (WRA).

Another thought shared to ensure data quality is the need to analyse the trend of the data being submitted

5. *It is acknowledged that there are several hotspot districts in the Mt. Elgon area, will the vulnerability assessment cover all these?*

While these is acknowledged, the project is only limited to identified districts and sites based on the previous scoping visits by the project team and engagement with relevant stakeholders in the sites. There is a limit on what the project can cover based on resources available and project timeframe.

6. *Apart from monitoring, Will the project implement activities with the community such as support to tree nursery establishment, agroforestry, and management production and related conservation initiatives? This could be used as an incentive and communities can set up a value chain from these activities depending on the preferred tree species.*

Work package 3 of the water towers project has aspects on capacity building. Therefore, such activities will be based on the communities' needs and priorities in the respective sites. Therefore, capacity building on such interventions could be provided. For instance, this is happening in one of the project sites in Kenya, led by the Green Belt Movement, one of the project partners in Kenya.

7. A key suggestion was for the team to consider considering sustainability and a suitable exit strategy for the project after the project timeframe from the beginning. There is need to ensure that activities continue even after the project ends.

Other ways which would contribute to the project sustainability include:

Working with local partners and the project approach: the ACM methodology, which has been used successfully by AUPWAE and CIFOR in other areas in Uganda, was lauded by the ministry of Water and Environment as one of the ways of empowering communities, especially women to be able to negotiate and realize benefits. Emphasis was also placed on involvement of the civil society among other actors and communities for research to have an impact. The PAC will play a part in providing recommendations for project implementation.

Capacity building at the local level. The project focuses at the local level targeting water and forest associations, who are the major beneficiaries. Further, through involving communities in monitoring.

#### *Value of the project to the landscape*

Management of water and forest resources has often taken a sectoral approach. This has resulted into governance challenges in managing these resources at the community level. Therefore, the project aims to contribute to addressing this gap. The project links the biophysical aspects and governance of the forests and water, examining existing institutional and governance processes. Ultimately, the project will provide recommendations on what institutional arrangements and practices are more likely to lead to sustainable use and management of forests and water as linked resources.

Contributing to the uniqueness of the project, AUPWAE has been working with CIFOR on Adaptive Collaborative Management approach with communities. The approach will also be employed in the Water towers project drawing lessons from other parts of Uganda.

## RELEVANT ACTIVITIES IN THE SITES

Stakeholders gave their presentations on various initiatives in the Mt. Elgon area.

### Water Resources Management

- Louis Mugisha, Team leader- Kyoga Water Management Zone

Mr. Mugisha from the Directorate of Water Resources Development shared the institutional framework for managing water resources based on the catchment approach. Uganda is divided into four Water Management Zones (WMZ). These are Upper Nile, Albert, Victoria, and Kyoga. The WMZ are further divided into catchment areas. For instance, Kyoga WMZ has 11 catchments which include Awoja and Mpologoma. The catchment is defined by the hydrological boundaries. He alluded to the demand for water from various sectors, and the need to bring all stakeholders

together. Catchment Management Organizations have been formed as forums for bringing the stakeholders together to identify opportunities, challenges, and research areas to enhance water management. The Catchment Management Plan (CMP) has also been developed at the catchment level and other interventions through and projects should be anchored to the CMP. The CMP for Mpologoma is ready and will be shared. The Catchment Management Committee (CMC) and the secretariat are key entities that need to be involved in implementing activities.

Mr. Mugisha mentioned several activities in the Mt. Elgon region. Recently, a project on enhancing resilience to climate change with a focus on adaptation was launched. Activities planned under the project will include setting up tree nurseries and livelihood interventions such as alternative income generating activities. The sub-catchments covered will include Kering and Tapok. A project on Water management and Development will be implemented in Sipi and Muyembe in Kapchorwa and Kween districts. Activities will focus on water supply and catchment restoration activities such as tree planting. Another project being formulated will focus on riverbank restoration in Namatale, upper Manafwa and Lwakhakha. All these interventions are based on the existing CMP. In conclusion, Mr. Mugisha emphasized the need to involve all stakeholders through the catchment management approach even on monitoring aspects rather than using a sectoral approach, and to use the CMP as a basis for interventions.

### Collaborative Forest Management (CFM)

-Christine Mugenyi, Sector Manager, Namatale Central Forest Reserve

Mrs. Mugenyi, the Sector manager of the Namatale Central Forest Reserve, highlighted the CFM process under NFA. The process involves communities in management of forest resources through negotiations and benefit sharing arrangements. She mentioned that through the CFM process, conflicts have been reduced and enhanced good governance, for instance of access to forest benefits. In Namatale, NFA initiated the process with CBOs surrounding the forest reserve. These include Kilayi Tree planters and conservation association, Bunamoli bee keepers association and Bunyafa forest conservation association. Currently, only Bunyafa CFM group has advanced to the fourth step of CFM, which is, conducting Participatory Situation Analysis, whereas other groups are waiting for CFM launch to be conducted. Members of Bunyafa group engage in tree planting on private lands whereas Bunamoli Beekeepers Association has been allocated a place in Namatale CFR for setting up an apiary.

The CFM process has faced several challenges. These include inadequate funding for the process and agricultural encroachment in the forest reserve. Encroachment was at its peak during 2013 to 2014. During this period the forest suffered major encroachment by almost 80% of the total area. Unclear forest boundary is another challenge. Part of the forest boundary is not clear, which indirectly has affected the progress of CFM process. The National Forestry Authority (NFA) initiated the process to re-survey the boundary in 2016. In conclusion, Mrs. Mugenyi emphasized

the need for coordination with stakeholders, including the private sector to ensure communities derive benefits from the collaborative management of forests.

### Community involvement in forest management -John Tugume, Community Development Officer, UWA

Mr. Tugume, from Uganda Wildlife Authority, highlighted the activities UWA has been undertaking with communities in forest conservation and livelihood initiatives in Mt. Elgon area. These include projects on carbon credits, where communities are supported to grow seedlings. Also, there has been a revenue sharing arrangement with some communities. These activities are usually made possible through a Memorandum of understanding between UWA and communities.



*Photo: Christine Mugenyi (Left) and John Tugume (Right) giving their presentations*

### IUCN Activities in Mt. Elgon - Awadh Chemangei, Natural Resources Officer, Kapchorwa District

Mr. Chemangei highlighted IUCN activities in the Mt. Elgon ecosystem. These include the Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA), implemented through the Community Environment

Conservation Fund (CECF), and the Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR - FRI). The EBA project was piloted in two catchments, in Rivers Sipi (Kawowo and Kapsinda) and Kaptakwoi (Kapchesombe Sub-county) in Kapchorwa district. It aimed at strengthening the capacities of stakeholders to build ecosystem resilience for promoting EBA options and to reduce vulnerability of communities, with particular emphasis on mountain ecosystems.

The Community Environment Conservation Fund (CECF) was an approach used to address environment and natural resources management using a revolving fund, which was invested in the communities and used in the villages as an incentive to improve the implementation of the CECF interventions. The interventions included tree planting, contour and trench digging, protection and restoration of the river banks. These were implemented in Kaptakwoi and Sipi catchments. The implementation framework was attached to community plans and an individual was rewarded according to the performance of the plan. Sensitization of the community was done by a weekly radio program through the Farm radio International. The achievements of these initiatives include enhanced female participation in leadership and fund access; and enabling communities demand for extension services especially for vegetable growing. However, challenges were also experienced. These include the committee giving money to themselves; some members of the committee coming from the same family; inadequate follow ups and monitoring; and failure to follow the required criteria when giving out loans.

### Non-Governmental Organization -Mbale Coalition against Poverty (Mbale CAP) -Rogers Wasibi

Mr. Wasibi highlighted the 10 Million Tree project, which focused on adaptation implemented by MCAP. Mbale CAP is a collaborative Development Umbrella Organization of Mbale regional, local Governments, NGOs, and private Sector. The NGO focuses on health, education and environment (Agroforestry, Carbon offset scheme, Sustainable land management programs). At the community level, the NGO is operating 39 community tree nursery hubs and supporting propagation and distribution of quality planting materials. Tree planting activities are carried out in river banks, institutions, roadside and on farms. Other interventions carried out to address some of the community challenges include value addition, farming passion fruits and energy efficient projects such as biogas and cook stoves.

Two other presentations included communities work on forest and water management through the CFM groups and water user committees.

## Community involvement in water management through water committees -Razia Yamusobo, Kapchorwa district

Mrs. Razia shared the roles of different stakeholders in the management of water and sanitation facilities to ensure sustainability. The community is the key stakeholder through the respective water user committees. The operations of the water user committees are mainly focused on maintaining the water sources such as tap stand, shallow well or a river. There are water committees' roles include promoting good sanitation and hygiene; maintaining a record list of water users; mobilizing users to pay for maintenance fees and property keep financial records of the water source funds. Part of the funds are used to maintain the facilities and pay the caretakers. The composition consists of 5 people, which 50 % are supposed to be women and also supposed to take up key positions. There is a caretaker in each tap stand whose roles include maintenance and mobilizing people to improve on sanitation and hygiene.

The water committees are selected by the community with the assistance of the Local Executive 1(LC1). The LC1 also monitors the performance of the committees to ensure proper accountability of funds. In some areas the committees have been inactive. Contributing factors include lack of incentives, lack of funds for maintenance, and lack of ownership. Some indicators of a functioning committee include a protected water source, frequent meetings and carrying out some conservation activities. Before a facility is installed, a water user committee needs to be formed. Other requirements include contributions, settling land conflicts through MoUs, which would specify the roles of stakeholders such as the community and sub-county officials. It is also important to give feedback to the community on quality monitoring. Other challenges facing the committees include lack of a volunteer spirit, poor farming methods, and inadequate enforcement of by-laws. In conclusion, Mrs. Razia suggested possible solutions to the challenges facing water committees. These include initiating village savings and loan association, encouraging meetings and good farming practices, and sharing the operation and maintenance plans with stakeholders.

## Bunyafa Forestry Conservation Association (BUFORECA) -Mr. Manana Gutaka

Mr. Manana, the secretary of BUFORECA group, presented an overview of BUFORECA's involvement in conservation activities with the National Forestry Authority in Namatale forest reserve. The association is composed of nine CBOs with a total of 274 members. The focus of the association is to develop and encourage agricultural practices and tree planting schemes to address environmental degradation. The current partner is NFA, though initially the group was involved in the Mt. Elgon Regional Ecosystem Conservation Programme (MERECP). The main activities undertaken include zero grazing, tree planting, poultry farming, apiary, nursery bed establishment and management. The group is looking forward to sign a Collaborative Forest Management, which will give them a legal mandate to participate in forest management.

## Experience on Adaptive Collaborative Management (ACM) -Alice Tibazalika, AUPWAE

The ACM experience and outcomes in Uganda were presented by Mrs. Tibazalika from AUPWAE. The ACM approach was implemented in partnership with CIFOR and Makerere University. ACM was defined as a value adding approach whereby people who have an interest in a resource (such as forest and water) agree to act together to plan, observe and learn from the implementation of their plans while recognizing that plans often fail to achieve their stated objectives. The methodology involves planning, action, monitoring and reflection to identify what has worked and what has not and identifying further actions to address what is not working. Planning and monitoring is continuous. Visioning is one of the key elements in the process of conceptualizing change under ACM. Here, community members visualize their desired future situations, after which they came up with Action Plans. Community facilitators are involved in monitoring and documenting.

The goal of CM was to increase women's participation in forest management. The approach produced positive results within the community. These include increased number of women in leadership positions, more women planting and owning trees, including the species considered to be a taboo for women to plant, and increased confidence levels to participate in meetings. In conclusion, Alice highlighted that ACM is one of the approaches AUPWAE will use in implementing capacity development in the Water towers project. This will be through ACM visioning in the sites and facilitate implementation of community plans. These plans will fit within the forest plans and the catchment management plans.

### Feedback on the presentations

- There was a concern on the survival rate of trees being planted under the various initiatives presented. There needs to be mechanism for establishing survival rate of the trees
- There was an acknowledgement that the focus should shift from 'tree planting' to 'tree growing'. This would entail establishing protection mechanisms to the trees.
- Growing trees first requires communities to have a change in mindset and invoking culture. For instance, the strong attachment to some specific tree species. It must also be considered to be an attractive venture.
- A question to consider is, what incentives should be applied for communities to engage in conservation
- When communities are involved in data collection for water monitoring work they need to be given feedback, and how the results impact on their work
- Compliance of community
- Are there water source protection plans, for instance zoning along the catchment. Sub-catchments and micro catchment. The project will focus at the micro catchment level, anchoring the activities in the available catchment plans.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTNERS

-Dr. Daniel Waiswa, Makerere University

The water towers project activities, the roles and terms of reference for the Project Advisory Committee were presented. The planned activities to achieve each of the five project outputs are shown below.

The activities are organized in three work packages as presented in the project overview session. These are:

1. Vulnerability analysis and exploration of measures to conserve forest and water as linked systems
2. Analysis of institutions for the governance of forest and water resources
3. Capacity strengthening, outreach and dissemination

From these work packages, there are 5 outputs.

### **Output 1: Assessments and analyses provide empirical evidence of the status of social-ecological systems**

- Literature Review
- Select study sites for both biophysical and social science research
- Train forest and water monitors
- Conduct monitoring of forest health and water supply
- Train enumerators in concepts and methods
- Conduct interviews at local and sub-national levels
- Hold feedback workshops with CFAs, WRUAs, and county governments
- Support university research
- Capacity building of CFAs, WRUAs, and local forest level officials of KFS, WRMA and county governments

### **Output 2: Enhanced understanding of the effects of gender differentiation on the functions of forest and water and the implications for resource condition**

- Collect sex-disaggregated data

### **Output 3: Identified governance arrangements that are equitable and foster forest and water management**

- Conduct institutional analysis and cross-site comparisons/syntheses
- value chain analysis

### **Output 4: Knowledge and communication products for developing capacity of forest and water association members and leaders in forest and water governance**

- Synthesize findings

- Hold community workshops to share findings and generate options

**Output 5: Communications materials for local level awareness raising and dissemination of the research findings**

- Extract and summarize information from key sources and reports
- Prepare scripts and messages for radio shows and video documentary

The roles of the different stakeholders are indicated below.

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Roles</b>
Forest groups and water associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in research process as citizen scientists in participatory monitoring of water and forest resources</li> <li>• Capacity development and strengthening to enhance their technical and managerial capacities</li> <li>• Represented in the PAC</li> <li>• Through their meetings, disseminate project information and findings in the community</li> </ul>
Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) Ministry of Water and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part of Project Advisory Committee (PAC)</li> <li>• Convene PAC meetings on rotational basis</li> <li>• Capacity development programs on community groups in WP3 and gender in natural resources management</li> </ul>
GIZ Water program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representation in the PAC to ensure cross-project synergies are maximized, for instance through GIZ’s capacity building modules</li> </ul>
AUPWAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and deliver capacity development programs in gender integration, conflict resolution, negotiation, participation, and knowledge of rules and regulations among community associations</li> <li>• Serve as intermediaries between community and representatives of forestry and water agencies</li> </ul>
Makerere University	Lead data collection, analysis and reporting in Uganda

The project will also involve local government in the respective sites, the Catchment Management Committees and NFA. The project wants to achieve impact at the local level, hence the need for involvement of various stakeholders including the civil society.

**Project Advisory Committee (PAC)**

The ‘Water Towers’ project implementation structure has the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). The purpose of the PAC will be to review findings and provide direction on how findings can be

integrated into current practices and strategies. It will provide an avenue for linkage with stakeholders. Members will be drawn from the project site level, and will be about 10 members representing policy makers, NGO, private sector and the community. Membership in PAC is voluntary.

In Uganda, membership will be drawn from CFM groups and water groups, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Ministry of Water and Environment, and Makerere University.

The tasks of the PAC will include:

- Participation in annual project meetings in Kenya with consortium partners
- Providing advice on the strategic direction of the project, technical content, and collaboration and engagement with other initiatives and governance processes in the region
- Reviewing key project documents, such as annual reports, major work plans and tools
- Participate in Skype meetings with CIFOR, and other c partners, to follow up on project progress, provide feedback and updates relevant to the project
- Providing awareness about other projects and initiatives and outreach with key national and regional processes and facilitate links between them with the project
- Provide updates on project to policy makers and to the organizations they represent
- Define Project priorities, monitor and guide Project implémentation, control qualité and identify ways in winch Project findings Can be integrated into policy and practice.

It is proposed that the meetings of the PAC will be held twice a year and will be convened on a rotational basis by UWA and the Ministry of Water and Environment.

## CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

On behalf of CIFOR, and the 'Water Towers' project leader, the team was grateful for the input received from participants and appreciated their effort and the institutions represented in the workshop. On the way forward, it was agreed that the project team will make contacts with stakeholders to get representatives in the PAC and other formal arrangements required. The project team will also make contact with the site level stakeholders in planning the project activities. The project partners, AUPWAE and Makerere will develop work plans for capacity development and research activities respectively. The TORs for the PAC will be shared, and request nominations on the representatives from the sites.

### Closing Remarks Dr. Bob Kazungu

Dr. Kazungu recapped some of the aspects highlighted during the workshop sessions. He was particularly concerned about the low survival of trees seedlings planted, and emphasized the importance of checking on how survival can be enhanced. There is also a concern on tree

seedlings quality. He observed that there was a gap in knowledge among community members on where to get quality tree seedlings and how to tend the trees. He urged the stakeholders to ensure that you use the technical professionals. Tree growing is not just a matter of having seedlings. It involves ensuring that the trees grow. Dr. Kazungu urged the projects involved in conservation projects to also consult the guidelines that have been developed over time. Dr. Kazungu also reiterated the need to involve the local governments.

### Closing Remarks from John Musila -LCV Chairman, Kyoga Zonal Catchment Management Committee

The workshop was officially closed by Mr. John Musila, the Chairperson of the Kyoga Catchment Management Committee. He reiterated the importance of linking with various stakeholders. The local government has been used as an avenue for implementing various activities at the local level. He emphasized the need to discern the environmental changes and take necessary actions, for instance water volumes in several rivers have reduced. The 'water tower' areas in Uganda are facing formidable challenges. Hence there is an urgent need for action. There is need to learn from rehabilitation experiences which have been implemented in other parts despite the little resources available. The key to undertaking these actions is mindset change in tree growing so that communities can also embrace indigenous tree species. Communities need to be shown practical actions. In conclusion, Mr. Musila underscored an issues discussed in the workshop relating to sustainability of projects, which is among the major challenges facing projects. He concluded by emphasizing the need to have a sustainability strategy, not only for the Water towers project, but also for other future initiatives.



*Photo: John Musila giving closing remarks the workshop*

## ANNEX 1: INCEPTION WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Time	Activity	Responsible
9:00-9:15 am	Arrival and Introduction	Makerere university/AUPWAE
9:15-9:30 am	Welcome Remarks	Makerere University
9: 30-9:40 am	Opening remarks	
9:40-10:10 am	The Water Towers project-overview	CIFOR
10.10-11:30 am	<i>Break</i>	
10:30-12:30 am	<p>Relevant activities in study sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DWRM: Catchment plans and implementation at sub catchment level</li> <li>• NFA: Implementation of CFM in Namatale</li> <li>• UWA: Community involvement in forest management</li> <li>• IUCN</li> <li>• MCAP</li> <li>• AUPWAE: Concepta</li> <li>• Community work on forest and water</li> </ul> <p>10 min presentation &amp; 5 min Q &amp; A (2 hrs)</p>	
12:30-1:30 pm	LUNCH	
1:30 -3:30 pm	<p>Plenary session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm project activities</li> <li>• Roles and responsibilities of partners</li> <li>• Project time frame</li> <li>• PAC : Confirm composition, ToR</li> <li>• M &amp; E, communication strategy</li> </ul> <p>Way forward</p>	Makerere University, AUPWAE,CIFOR
3.30 pm	Closing remarks	

**ANNEX 2: WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS**

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