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COALITION UGANDA

A Baseline Survey Report on **Hotspots for  
Illegal Forest Activities** around **Kalinzu** and  
**Imaramagambo** Forests



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## List of Acronyms

<b>ACCU</b>	Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda
<b>CBM</b>	Community Based Monitoring
<b>CFR</b>	Central Forest Reserve
<b>CFM</b>	Collaborative Forest Management
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>ENR</b>	Environment and Natural Resources
<b>ICT</b>	Information, Communication and Technology
<b>MWLE</b>	Ministry of Water, Land and Environment
<b>NFA</b>	National Forestry Authority
<b>NEMA</b>	National Environment Management Authority
<b>UWA</b>	Uganda Wild Life Authority
<b>WWF UCO</b>	Wild Wide Fund for Nature Uganda Country Office

## **Executive Summary**

ACCU and WWF UCO are running a partnership project titled: “Promoting Partnerships in Up-scaling Community Monitoring Systems in Forestry Governance and Community Livelihoods”, implemented in the forest adjacent areas of Kalinzu and Imaramagabo forest land scape in the 3 districts of Bushenyi, Rubirizi and Mitooma. ACCU engaged the services of a consultant to ascertain baseline information of the 3 districts in relation to illegal forest activities around Kalinzu and Imaramagabo Central Forest Reserves.

The purpose of the survey was to establish bench marks that will form ground for future comparison as the project progress. It specifically aimed at: establishing the different forms of forest illegalities, establishing and quantifying the level and extent of forest illegalities, establishing potential drivers for the illegalities, establishing hot spots of illegal activities and recommending at least 4 strategies to curb the illegal activities identified. The survey used a variety of approaches among which was literature review, introductory meetings, transect walks, key informant interviews and observations.

The survey found out different forms of forest illegalities among which are illegal timber cutting, charcoal burning, encroachment of the forest reserve, harvesting of medicinal herbs, gold mining, poaching, and walking sticks, hoe handles and banana supports. The potential drivers for forest illegalities are; limited community awareness of rights, roles and responsibilities, high levels of poverty, human greed, high demand and ready market for forest resources, political interference, corruption by some of the NFA and UWA staff and poor and unfair land allocation procedure. The survey had limitations in quantifying illegal forest activities due to inadequacies in recording of impounded produce at the NFA offices with some of the produce disappearing before it is impounded. Therefore the study findings were based on the recorded cases and incidences by the patrol men, NFA staff, estimations by the CFM members, and the District officials.

The survey had limitations in quantifying illegal forest activities due to inadequacies in recording of impounded produce at the NFA offices with some of the produce disappearing before it is impounded. An estimated total of 4,320 bags of charcoal are harvested annually in the hotspot areas of Nyakahandagazi, Kahija, Katima, Kazigangoma, Kibale villages around Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve. A total of 13 illegal timber Pitsawying sites were identified in Kalinzu forest reserve in 2015. In 2015, NFA registered 6 cases of encroachment and these totaled to over 2 hectares of area illegally planted with eucalyptus and the community identified 7 encroachers in compartment 12 but one encroacher called Simeo was reported to be encroaching on several compartments including 1, 12 and 17. Lastly a total of 5 illegal gold mining sites were identified along the tributaries of river Nyasaama in Kalinzu Forest reserve in 2015.

Some of the potential hotspot areas for forest illegalities that the survey managed to find out ranged from those that are within the forest and those that are outside the forest reserve. Some of the hotspot areas are villages adjacent to Kalinzu and Imaramagabo Central Forest Reserve. Villages that are practicing illegal charcoal burning are Nyakahandagazi and Kahijja in Nyarugoote parish, Katima and Kazigangoma in Kyamuhunga Sub County and Kibale in Bitereko Sub County in Mitooma District. Villages practicing illegal timber cutting are Kahijja, Swazi, Kazigangoma, Nyarugoote, Kibale and Wampwembe. The survey also found out that compartments 1, 7, 8,10,12,17, 26 and 38 of Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve are hot spots for charcoal burning, timber cutting, harvesting of walking sticks, banana supports and medicinal plants. This is due to the fact that these compartments are adjacent to the communities and therefore can easily be accessed. There is gold mining along the tributary to Kiryantama River which is illegal. The survey further found out that trading centers such as Kizinda in Ishaka, Nyabusozzi in Kiruhura, Mashoga, Rutokye and Butare are the main receivers and center points for the harvested forest illegal products such as timber, charcoal, hoe handles, and walking sticks. These products are not displayed on the stalls but rather hidden behind the stalls for fear of such produce being confiscated by the enforcement agencies.

The survey identified various routes through which illegal forest products are transported to the nearby trading/market centers and this is where there is limited presence of NFA and other law enforcement agencies. Such routes included: Nyarugoote Kanyabore route, Nyarugoote Kasozi route, Nyarugoote Kizinda route, Nyarugoote Butare route, Kibale Rutokye to Ishaka route, Kahijja via Kisozi route and Swazi Omuburere Butare road.

The survey recommended strategies necessary to curb illegal activities in Kalinzu and Imaramagabo Central Forest Reserve as listed below:

1. Strengthening and promoting community monitoring and reporting using the CFM groups as one of the entry point for selecting trustworthy monitors to volunteer in this exercise.
2. The capacity of selected monitors should be built in policy and legal frameworks pertaining the management of forest resources, chain of custody of the various forestry resources, lobbying and advocacy etc.
3. The NFA and UWA on other hand should be equipped to conduct regular patrols, verify and respond to information provided by the community based monitors with a strong spy network.
4. WWF/ACCU in partnership with other stakeholders should promote alternative income generating enterprises such as bee keeping. Poultry should also be promoted to scale as a way of reducing dependency of the local communities on the forest reserve.

5. Initiatives for Tree planting both in the forest reserves and outside by the community should be increased as a mechanism of reducing the pressure on the available natural forest trees.
6. Sustainable land and crop management practices including provision of both organic and inorganic fertilizers should be promoted to agricultural land productivity. This will reduce on the pressure of forest encroachment in search of fertile soils.
7. General community awareness creation should be conducted on the importance of forests, forest laws, the consequences of practicing illegal activities and the need for community to participate in protecting the forest against illegal activities.

## **Chapter One: Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

The Forestry sub-sector constitutes an important part in the sustenance of livelihoods of millions of Ugandans and it's one of the major primary growth sectors in the 2040 vision of Uganda. It is estimated that up to 2.7 million Ugandans (15% of the population) live in parishes that neighbor forest reserves, and access forest products and services<sup>1</sup>. The forest products however are often not extracted in a sustainable manner leading to degradation and loss of forest cover.

Uganda's forest cover has been estimated to decline at 92,000 ha per annum with 34% reduction in private forests compared to the 12% in the protected areas<sup>2</sup>. By 2002, the level of forest cover in gazetted forest reserves was 1.34 million hectares and this reduced to 1.3million hectares (42percent) in 2008<sup>3</sup>. The major factors leading to the loss of forest cover and degradation are illegal conversion of forest to agriculture, and grazing land, overharvesting for firewood, charcoal, timber and non-wood forest products (MWLE 2002; NEMA 2001).

The study on timber trade conducted by WWF in 2012, established that 80% of the current timber trade in Uganda is illegal causing government to lose 23bn (USD 9.8 million) annually. In Uganda, 18% of the households depend on charcoal for cooking while another 78% depend on firewood most of which is obtained illegally. Despite several efforts by different stakeholders such as government, civil society and local communities towards fighting illegal forest activities, occurrences of forest illegalities are still evident in Central Forest Reserves including Kalinzu.

### **1.2 Brief about the project**

ACCU and WWF UCO are running a partnership project titled; "Promoting Partnerships in Up-scaling Community Monitoring Systems in Forestry Governance and Community Livelihoods", implemented in the forest adjacent areas of Kalinzu and Imaramagabo forest land scape in the 3 districts of Bushenyi, Rubirizi and Mitooma.

The above named project further emphasizes ACCU and WWF's desire to deepen democratic governance in the forestry sector using Community Based Monitoring systems supported by ICT. This is done through empowering the citizenry in monitoring corruption incidences in the chain of custody of forest products. This project intervention further emphasizes

<sup>1</sup>John Kaboggoza (2011), Forest Plantations and Woodlots in Uganda. African Forest Forum Working Paper Series.

<sup>2</sup>UBOS (2012), Uganda Bureau of Statistics Statistical Abstract; June 2012

<sup>3</sup>Cornelius Kazoora (May 2010), Value Chain Analysis of Charcoal Enterprises and its implications for forestry management in Uganda

opportunities for ACCU to establish and expose governance challenges in the ENR sector so as to make meaningful contribution to the conservation of Uganda's ENR sector on which over 90% of the population depends for their livelihoods.

The specific objectives of this partnership include: to establish a CSO node for the S. Western Uganda and work with them to improve documentation and reporting of cases through the use of ICT by CBMS: scale up the CBM ICT monitoring model to other Central Forest Reserves in Uganda namely Kalinzu and South Imaramagabo: strengthen and coordinate partnerships and community institutions with duty bearers especially those that are directly working in the sector.

### **1.3 Purpose and objectives of the Survey**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the survey was to establish benchmarks that will form ground for future comparison as the project progress.

#### **Objectives**

The survey specifically aimed at:

- Establishing the different forms of forest illegalities around Kalinzu and Imaramagabo Central Forest Reserves (by communities, managers, concessionaires/licenses).
- Establishing and quantifying the level and extent of forest illegalities around Kalinzu and Imaramagabo central forest reserves.
- Establishing potential drivers for the illegalities around Kalinzu and Imaramagabo central forest reserves.
- Establishing hot spots of illegal activities.
- Recommending at least 4 strategies to curb the illegal activities identified.

## **Chapter Two: Survey Methodology**

### **2.1 Sample size**

The sample size of the survey was elders, opinion leaders and representatives from CFM resource user groups in villages surrounding Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve and the duo management area of Kalinzu- Imaramagabo CFR. The survey also sampled representatives from NFA at the sector level and patrol men.

### **2.2 Survey approaches**

The survey used qualitative approaches of data collection as discussed below:

#### **2.2.1 Literature review**

The Consultant undertook extensive literature review to obtain and analyse available information related to forest illegalities, their drivers and the institutional and legal framework. The consultant reviewed the draft forest management plan for Kalinzu, patrol reports, NFA supervisors monthly reports, publication on drivers of forest deforestation, CFM Participatory Situational Analysis Reports for Nyarugote, Swazi and Ndangara-Nyakiyanja and Kiyanga CFM sites.

#### **2.2.2 Introductory meetings**

The consultant conducted introductory meetings with NFA staff, community leaders aimed at identification and description of key hotspot areas for forest illegal activities. During the meetings, work plans for the field visits/transect walks were jointly drawn.

#### **2.2.3 Transect walks**

The Consultant together with the identified knowledgeable community members, NFA staff and community elders conducted transect works to identified hotspot areas for forest illegal activities. These included sites within and outside the forest reserves such as gold mining and charcoal mining sites, trading centers and routes for illegal activities



**Figure 1:** Consultant together with a team of patrol men, community representatives walking through a tea plantation into the forest.

## 2.2.4 Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews in a semi-structured manner were conducted with key stakeholders such as NFA staff, Chairpersons of CFM committees, former practitioners of forest illegalities and representatives from the District Forest Services, Local councils and patrol men. A questionnaire was developed to guide the interviews.

## 2.2.5 Observations

Observation involved the collection of information by watching, listening, inspecting and recording of information or activities noticed. Some of the key aspects observed in the forest were fresh spot sites of timber cutting, charcoal, debarking of trees for medicinal use and gold mines. Outside the forest, the consultant observed market and trading centers with banana sticks, hoe handles and illegal timber disguised with eucalyptus timber from private woodlots. This was backed up with taking photos of the key things that had been observed.

## **2.2.6 Focus Group Discussions**

Four focused group discussions composed of resource user groups from Nyarugoote, Ndagara-Nyakianja, Swazi, Kiyanga CFM sites were conducted. The key groups included former poachers, illegal timber cutters and charcoal burners.

## **2.3 Ethical Considerations**

Below are some of the ethical considerations that the survey put into mind:

During formal interviews, the survey had to get the free prior informed consent from the respondents by explaining to them the purpose and relevance of the survey, how the findings of the survey will be used and what issue the survey is trying to address. The respondents were also assured of protecting and respecting the privacy of information given and where necessary not to disclose the source of the information generated.

The respondents were first taken through the questions to enable them reflect and prepare themselves. This was aimed at getting well thought responses that are credible.

In cases where some of the questions of the survey were very sensitive and the interviewer assessed that the respondent might be skeptical to provide the right information, the survey tried to ask the same questions indirectly with a lot of probing to reach to the right answer.

The survey also put into consideration the participants' rights to decline to participate and to withdraw from the exercise once it started.

## **2.4 Quality control**

In order to ensure that the collected data was verified, the survey used a variety of methods to double check its authenticity. Some of these included, holding focus group discussions, key informant interviews backed up with observations.

## **2.5 Limitations to the study**

The survey had limitations in quantifying illegal forest activities due to inadequacies in recording of impounded produce at the NFA offices with some of the produce disappearing before it is impounded. Some respondents including NFA staff were not free to reveal some of the hot spots especially those in the forest. Despite the clarification of the purpose of the survey some community members were skeptical and therefore provided information with reservations.

## Chapter Three: Survey Findings

The survey findings are categorized in five thematic areas namely; the different forms of forest illegalities, level and extent of forest illegalities, hot spots of illegal activities and strategies to curb the illegal activities around Kalinzu and Imaramagabo central forest reserves as described below;

### 3.1 Forms of forest illegalities

#### 3.1.1 Illegal timber cutting

The survey found out that illegal timber cutting in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve was relatively low as compared to 3 years back. It manifested itself as; cutting timber without a license and misusing a license. The respondents said that the timber cutters usually cut trees that are not authorized to be cut, others cut more trees than what is allocated in the license, others use wrong tools than those specified on the license such as chain saws and using a license beyond its expiry period. The Funtumia tree species was found to be the most affected by the illegal timber cutters on the account of it being soft and therefore easy to cut.

#### 3.1.2 Charcoal burning



**Figure 2:** An illegal Charcoal burning site in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve

According to the NFA staff, charcoal as a stand-alone activity is not permitted in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve owing to the conservation importance of the forest. However, according to the NFA staff it is acceptable to burn charcoal from lops and tops following legal timber harvesting as long as the activity is not going to affect the forest adversely. The survey found out that despite the reduction of occurrences of charcoal burning within the forest, the communities had improvised other mechanisms of illegal charcoal burning such as removing the wood logs, poles and billets from the forest and burning them from their homesteads.

### 3.1.3 Encroachment of the forest reserve

The survey found out different forms of encroachment namely encroachment for eucalyptus tree growing and food crop growing. Encroachment for eucalyptus tree growing was mainly done by the private tree growers who allocated themselves more land beyond the official allocated acreage. Some community members have also taken it upon themselves to illegally plant eucalyptus trees alongside the private tree growers to disguise their trees as belonging to the private tree growers. This is usually done at night and in the bushes so that they are not easily noticed by the NFA staff while they are still young. According to the draft Kalinzu Forest Management for 2014 to 2024, there are over 22 private forest planters in Kalinzu who exceeded what they had been allocated by NFA. They were given a total of 80.6 hectares and ended up planting over 157.1 hectares. Therefore a total of 76.5 hectares were planted as a form of encroachment. A summary table is in the annexes.

### 3.1.4 Harvesting of medicinal herbs



*Figure 4: Complete debarking of prunus trees for medicine in Kalinzu and North Maramagambo*

Harvesting of medicinal herbs takes various forms including braking of leaves, branches, and twigs, collections of seed, uprooting and debarking. Harvesting of limited quantities for medicinal use is permitted while commercial extraction is regarded illegal if done without a license. In Kalinzu forest reserve the survey identified rampant illegal debarking of trees mainly the Fagara and Prunus species. The trees were found ring barked thus exposing them to the risk of drying.

### 3.1.5 Gold mining

Gold mining in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve is considered to be illegal. The survey found out gold mining was being practiced especially by the community artisans who dug relatively small holes in a particular region along river lines/tributaries. Beyond just extracting the gold, the practice degrades the forest through formation of numerous ponds and removal of forest undergrowth and sometimes big trees.



**Figure 5:** One pond left behind after gold mining in Kalinzu forest reserve.

### 3.1.6 Poaching

The survey found out that there were incidents of poaching in the duo management areas of Imaramagambo-Kalinzu Central Forest Reserves. This involves setting wire snares, metallic traps, hunting with dogs, nets and spears. Under the Uganda Wildlife Act, poaching is illegal unless it is licensed spot or controlled hunting.

### **3.1.7 Walking sticks, hoe handles and banana supports**

The survey found that the native communities around Kalinzu remove especially banana spots, hoe handles and walking sticks in big quantities due to the fact that they are small, light and easy to carry. These are harvested without a license and they are very destructive to the forest due to the fact that it's the young samplings that are cut and would have turned into big trees in future if well managed.

## **3.2 Level and extent of forest illegalities**

### **Quantification of illegal activities**

The survey had limitations in quantifying illegal forest activities due to inadequacies in recording of impounded produce at the NFA offices with some of the produce disappearing before it is impounded. In some cases what was reported and recorded were incidences of illegal activity sites encountered but not the produce itself. Therefore the study findings were based on the recorded cases and incidences by the patrol men, NFA staff, estimations by the CFM members, and the District officials. Below are some of the quantifications that the study identified:

### **Charcoal**

The community of Nyarugoote/CFM sites reported that on average, 12 bags of charcoal per day are transported to the markets by four motor cycles each loaded with three bags. An estimated total of 4,320 bags of charcoal are harvested annually in the hotspot areas of Nyakahandagazi, Kahijja, Katima, Kazigangoma, Kibale villages. The NFA supervisor said that it is rare to find charcoal burners on site due to their intelligence network. In such a scenario, the patrol teams usually destroy sites encountered and 2015 alone, a total of 22 illegal charcoal sites, two people arrested and sentenced for six months by the courts of law.

### **Timber**

A total of 13 illegal timber harvesting sites were identified in Kalinzu forest reserve in 2015. Records on timber and vehicles impounded with illegal forest produce were not available.



**Figure 6:** one of the illegal timber harvesting sites in Kalinzu CFR; *Funtumia* spp is the most targeted.

## Encroachment

In 2015, NFA registered 6 cases of encroachment and these totaled to over 2 hectares of area illegally planted with eucalyptus. The community identified 7 encroachers in compartment 12 but one encroacher called Simeo was reported to be encroaching on several compartments including 1, 12 and 17. Some of the known encroachers reported by the community included; Arinaitwe, Nyomole, Simeo, Nkende, Kihembo, Sam Tumwegye commonly known as Bigombe and Paul. Simeo who hails from Bitereko Sub.-county was said to have several patches of Eucalyptus plantation established in encroached areas in compartments 1, 12 and 17

## Gold sites

A total of 5 illegal gold mining sites were identified along the tributaries of river Nyasaama in Kalinzu Forest reserve in 2015.

### 3.3 Potential drivers for forest illegalities

The survey identified several potential drivers for forest illegalities as described below:

### **3.3.1 Limited community awareness of rights, roles and responsibilities**

The survey found out that majority of the community members were not aware of their rights, roles and responsibilities towards the management of Kalinzu Imaramagabo Central Forest Reserve. All they were familiar with was accessing fuel wood and other forest resources for their own livelihoods. The few communities that had better understanding of their roles, rights and responsibilities also had limited knowledge on who makes decisions regarding the forest reserves and also were not very clear as how to engage the various stakeholders on some of the challenges they were facing in accessing some of the forest resources and reporting the illegal forest traders. Therefore going illegal was the easier way to survive.

### **3.3.2 High levels of poverty**

Majority of the communities adjacent to the forest are poor who mainly take two meals in a day as per WWF baseline social economic study January. Their main source of food and income is from banana and coffee that are affected by the banana and coffee wilt disease respectively. Besides, they possess small pieces of land which have lost their soil fertility over time. They apparently do not have any other alternative source of income and therefore depend on the forest as an alternative mechanism of survival. The inadequacy of income at household level has promoted poaching which provides the community with cheaper and preferred meat.

### **3.3.3 Human greed**

Encroachment is mainly promoted by human greed of the private tree farmers who have been adding themselves more land in addition to what they had been allocated. Worth noting is that NFA has been receiving ground rent fees for even the extended piece of land especially from the tea companies. The workers for the private tree growers also end up using the opportunity to encroach on the forest without the knowledge of their bosses.

### **3.3.4 High demand and ready market for forest resources**

Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve is one of the few remaining natural forest in the greater Bushenyi District (Shema, Mitooma, Rubirizi, Bushenyi and Buhweju districts) which has a high population density and a lot of urban growth centers. This automatically creates ready market for the forest produce especially from the natural forests such as timber and charcoal.

### **3.3.5 Political interference/statements/promises**

At the time of the survey, the country is undergoing election processes at different levels. Some of the aspiring candidates have used the opportunity to give away forests through the promises and statements to their potential electorates. A case in point is the Member of Parliament for Igara West who said to his communities in one of his rallies that he talked with the Executive Director NFA to ensure that the communities get land for tree planting. Therefore in cases where they do not get it, the communities will get demoralized and join the illegal dealers. Other political leaders such as the Minister for Disaster Preparedness, Professor Tarsis Kabwegyere used his position to acquire land for tree planting at the expense of the communities.

### **3.3.6 Corruption by some of the NFA and UWA staff**

The survey found out that some of the community members alleged part of Kalinzu Forest Reserve in compartment one was encroached upon with knowledge of the NFA forest supervisor then who they said was bribed by some rich individuals with selfish motives. It's also alleged that some of the poaching takes place with knowledge of UWA staff.

### **3.3.7 Poor and unfair land allocation procedure**

The communities claim that there was poor and unfair allocation of land which left out most of their counterparts. In response the communities have forcefully allocated themselves land for tree growing. This is through cutting the existing natural forest to replace it with eucalyptus trees

## **3.4 Illegal forest activities**

The survey found out several hot spots of illegal forest activities as described below. Most hot spots were identified in and/or linked to Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve while the outstanding illegal hotspot in the northern part of Imaramagambo was related to hunting and poaching and stretches into Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve.

### 3.4.1 Compartments 1,7,8,10,12,17,26 and 38 of Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve

These are compartments that are adjacent to the communities of Nkombe, Wampwembe, Swazi and Nyarugoote. They are characterized with a lot of forest illegalities due to their proximity to the community and thus it's easy for the community to harvest and monitor any NFA or district official that might be doing patrolling. They are characterized with illegal charcoal burning, timber cutting of *Funtumia* specie by both individual community members and rich people outside the region who facilitate the communities in cutting of timber. Since the community is predominantly agricultural, they harvest a lot of banana support and hoe handles necessary for promoting banana growing.

There is harvesting of medicine especially the debarking of *Prunus Africana* in compartment 26 and Fagara in compartment 1, 7 and 12. These villages neighboring the compartments especially Wampwembe has a lot of herbalists and witchdoctors. Kalinzu being one of the few forests around South Western Uganda, walking sticks are harvested and supplied to cattle keepers in Nyabusozzi in Kiruhura District.

In compartments 1, 8, 10, 12 and 17, there are incidences of encroachment in form of tree growing by both the private tree growers and the self-styled community members. 22 Private tree growers who have exceeded the area initially allocated to them by NFA for tree planting in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve<sup>4</sup>. Other community members disguise themselves as workers of the private tree growers to encroach on the forest especially the part near the allocated land. The communities plant the trees in the grasslands so as to hide their visibility by the NFA staff and by the time the staff realize, the trees would have grown. Some community members after charcoal burning turn the area into growing eucalyptus trees. There are allegations that some private tree growers acquired land for tree growing recently but their applications and land offers were backdated in collaboration with NFA staff.

### 3.4.2 Villages adjacent to Kalinzu and Imaramagabo CFR

The survey found out that the villages adjacent to the two forest reserves are one of the primary hot spots for forest illegal activities such as timber cutting and charcoal burning. Most of these villages are comprised of poor people who mainly depend on forest resources for their survival. Some of them are hotspot areas for more than one forest produce. The villages prominent for charcoal burning are Nyakahandagazi and Kahijja in Nyarugoote parish, Katima and Kazigangoma in Kyamuhunga Sub County

<sup>4</sup>Draft Forest Management Plan for Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve 2014-2024

and Kibale in Bitereko Sub County in Mitooma District. Part of this charcoal is produced within the forest. The other proportion is produced outside the forest in people's homesteads where the raw material is carried from the forest reserve in form of poles or billets as a mechanism of avoiding being arrested while in the forest. The practice of carrying billets using bicycles, head and motorcycles from the forests is as a result of pressure being exerted on the illegal charcoal producers by the NFA staff while in the forest.

The villages prominent for illegal timber cutting are Kahija, Swazi, Kazigangoma, Nyarugote, Kibale and Wampwembe. The timber is mainly harvested from Funtumia species and carried using bicycles and motor cycles. It's also sold in small bits to reduce on the suspicion and losses in case of impounding.

### 3.4.3 Tributaries to Kiryantama River

This tributary is found in compartment 38 of Kalinzu CFR in Nkombe Village near NFA sector offices. It's known for illegal gold mining. The mining has been taking place for over 10 years with changes in sites alongside the tributary. It's characterized by deep pits which over time have collected water to look like ponds. It's risky in a way that the ponds were not filled up at the time of the survey. It was said that gold that is equivalent to a top of a matchstick head is sold between 5,000/= to 8,000/=.



**Figure 7:** Some of the gold sites along the tributary to Kiryantama River

### 3.4.4 Trading centers

The survey identified trading centers as one of the key hot spots for illegal forest products. Such trading centers included; Kizinda in Ishaka, Nyabusozzi in Kiruhura, Mashoga, Rutokye and Butare. These are mainly receivers and center points for the harvested forest illegal products such as timber, charcoal, hoe handles, and walking sticks. These products are

not displayed on the stalls but rather hidden behind the stalls for fear of such produce being confiscated by the enforcement agencies. Timber in particular is disguised with eucalyptus and furniture pieces. Charcoal is rarely seen since it's directly sold to the final consumer in these trading centers which include among others restaurants, hotels and individual households. As soon as these illegal activities are brought to these markets, they are easily and quickly sold off due to their high demand. Nyabusenzi in Kiruhura district provides a unique market segment of walking sticks on account of their culture which involves walking sticks as a key weapon during grazing. Here the walking stick is commonly called "Enkoni". Kizinda and Butare on the other hand is relatively closer and located as end route to NFA and therefore serves as major monitoring point centers and a habitat of middle men, the funders of illegal activities and informers of suspected presence of NFA staff and any other law enforcement agencies.



**Figure 8:** On the left is Butare trading route and on the right is timber in Ishaka trading center disguising illegal timber in the back of the timber stall

### 3.4.5 Kachunchu Hill

This hill is found in compartment 1 of Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve and is known for illegal charcoal burning. The illegal charcoal burners use a variety of methods among which is burning on site and transportation of non-dry wood/billets outside the forest to convert it into charcoal. This hill is linked to accessible roads that facilitate the transportation of the billets quickly and fast before being intervened by NFA and other enforcement agencies.

### 3.4.6 Roads Routes/ (in forest)

These are routes within the forest from the area of extraction to the neighboring villages and these include:

### 3.4.6.1 The old sawmill road to Kalinzu Saw mill

The survey found out that this road used to be an extraction route for logs to feed the Kalinzu Saw mill and currently the saw mill is non-functional and so no more transportation of logs. However the community is using the road to transport illegal timber harvested from the surrounding Compartments. The road connects through Kahijja village, Nyarugoote to Butare and Ishaka trading centers. The timber is mainly transported during the night and very early in the morning when most of the enforcement agencies are deemed not to be on duty.

### 3.4.6.2 From crater lakes (Mirabyo, Kacuba, Kalorero, Kihogo and Kasharu) through Musaja mukuru hill, kicence hill to Kafunjo Village in Kagati parish, Kiyanga sub-county



**Figure 8:** Crater lakes that are hotspots for hunting and illegal fishing in Imaramagambo CFR

This particular hotspot is found in the Imaramagambo Central Forest Reserve which is continuous with the Kalinzu central Forest and is managed as dual management area by UWA and NFA.

This route is known for poaching of hippos, buffalos and elephants. The poachers mainly use Snares (wire and metallic), spears and dogs for hunting. Prior to hunting, they make sacrifices to their traditional spirits known as Kahigi, Muhima and Edyoka to support them before going for hunting. This meat ends up in Kafunjo, Kyemeo, Nyakasebe villages in Kagati parish, Rweshama in Rukugiri district and Kibale in Bitereko Sub County in Mitooma. The poachers sell to specialized customers in the

village who better understand the dynamics. It's hard for the enforcement agencies to monitor poaching at site but rather get to know of it when it has already happened.

### **3.4.7 Roads/routes (out forest)**

The survey identified various routes through which illegal forest products are transported to the nearby trading/market centers. These are routes where the presence of NFA and other law enforcement agencies is least expected. They are mainly used during the night and very early in the morning. The illegal forest dealers have their own informers alongside the routes. The mode of transportation of the illegal forest produce especially charcoal and timber in these routes has evolved over time from using motor vehicles to bicycles and motor cycles. This is aimed at minimizing losses when they are intercepted and the produce is impounded. Below are the identified routes;

- Nyarugoote Kanyabore route
- Nyarugoote Kasozi route
- Nyarugoote Kizinda route
- Nyarugoote Butare route
- Kibale Rutokye to Ishaka route
- Kahijja via Kisozi route
- Swazi Omuburere Butare road

## **Chapter Four: Conclusions and Strategies to curb illegal activities**

### **4.1 Conclusions**

The survey has identified glaring cases of Illegal forest activities in and around Kalinzu that are being coordinated through a well laid network of hot spots supported by a system of spy net-work by those involved. Bieng surrounded by highly populated villages, diminishing and ever degrading land resources, mushrooming urban centres, the pressure on Kalinzu and Imaramagabo forest reserves for community survival is high. To counter this pressure, there is need for stakeholder participation in the protection of the forest against illegal activities. The local community at the gates of the forest should be brought on board as a matter of priority to participate through a community based monitoring system that should be linked to other participatory approaches such as collaborative forest management and conservation education as key incentives for the participation in the voluntary monitoring system.

### **4.2 Strategies to curb the illegal activities identified**

1. CFM arrangements around Kalinzu especially effective implementation of the developed agreements should be promoted as a strategy to enhance community participation in forest protection and sustainable legal access to forest resources for improved lived livelihoods.
2. As part participation in forest protection, community monitoring and reporting should be promoted. The CFM groups provide a good entry point for selecting trustworthy monitors who will volunteer in this exercise. Beyond the CFM communities, the criteria for selection of monitors should put into consideration the hotspot areas to ensure effective reporting.
3. The capacity of selected monitors should be built in policy and legal frameworks pertaining the management of forest resources, chain of custody of the various forestry resources, lobbying and advocacy etc.
4. WWF/ACCU in partnership with other stakeholders should promote alternative income generating enterprises such as bee keeping. Poultry should also be promoted to scale as a way of reducing dependency of the local communities on the forest reserve.
5. In order to reduce dependency of the local communities on the forest reserve, alternative income generating enterprises bee keeping, poultry should be promoted to scale.

6. Tree planting both in the forest reserves and outside by the community should be promoted as a mechanism of reducing the pressure on the available natural forest trees. Given that the area is experiencing land scarcity, tree planting in agro-forestry systems should be promoted.
7. Sustainable land and crop management practices including provision of both organic and inorganic fertilizers should be promoted to agricultural land productivity. This will reduce on the pressure of forest encroachment in search of fertile soils.
8. General community awareness creation should be conducted on the importance of forests, forest laws, the consequences of practicing illegal activities and the need for community to participate in protecting the forest against illegal activities.

## References

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## Annexes

### Annex I: List of Participants

No	Name	Telephone
<b>Nyarugoote Parish Nyabubaare Sub-County Respondents</b>		
1	Tumwesigye Eldard	0784490995
2	Tumulaise J B (Secretary CFM)	0784941183
3	Kalembo Denis	0775072109
4	Kyogabirwe Scovia (CFM Youth representative)	0785430335
5	Muhwezi Benjamin	0759451609
6	Byaruhanga Dezi	0759373696
7	Muhumuza Robert	0753761922
8	Tumwesigye Monic	0755907614
9	Mwebaze Godfrey (CFM Chairperson)	0774395335
10	Omony Peter (NFA Forest Supervisor)	0774175944

<b>Swazi Parish Kyamuhunga Sub-County Respondents</b>		
1	Muhangi Alex (CFM Member)	0706069285
2	Tumwehwase Alberto	0753580068
3	Nicholas Tumwijukye	0703149444
4	Jacqline Twisiga	0703160013
5	Odiira Byamukama (CFM Vice Chairperson)	0702032051
6	Mujuni Getrude	0754440803
7	Kiiza Alex (CFM Chairperson)	0750885722
8	Katabarwa Freddie	075336232
9	Kyomukama Allen	0753242613
10	Agaba Lucky (NFA Forest Supervisor/ Ag SM	0705309605

#### **Rwoburunga Imaramagambo/Kalinzu Dual management Area Kiyanga S/C**

1	Kabarebe Thomas (CFM Chairperson)	0775727428
2	Friday (CFM secretary)	0777407842
3	Muzoora Y.	-
4	Bikongyise E. (CFM Member)	-
5	Mutambuzi Felix	-
6	Kigarambi	-
7	Turyatamba (CFM Member)	-

#### **Ndangara-Nyakiyanja Kabukwiri CFM Group- Ryeru S/County Rubirizi District**

1	Zinori (CFM Chairperson)	075930521
2	Tumusiime J.	-
3	Tukundane Prisca (CFM Youth)	0776211056
4	Mwebesa Richard	-
5	Bagumisa Patrick	-

## Annex II: List of private tree growers in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve that exceeded the allocated land by NFA.

No.	Client	Area allocated	Area planted by end of 2012	Date allocated
1	Abeneitwe Alex	1.5	2.3	21-Feb-00
2	Batarigaya Joseph	1.0	3.3	6-Jun-00
3	Bitame Gaston	2.0	18.6	26-Jun-05
4	BWIDA Group	1.1	1.1	8-Jul-00
5	Kamusiime Christopher	0.5	0.8	21-Feb-00
6	Karugaba Charles	1.0	2.2	22-Jan-01
7	Kateshombwa John	5.0	11.0	26-Mar-99
8	Katima Swazi Group	1.0	1.3	3-Feb-03
9	Katima Tweyambe Group	2.0	2.4	31-Mar-03
10	Kiberu Charles	5.0	5.2	9-Oct-01
11	Kyantunu Didas	5.0	16.3	9-Oct-01
12	Mwebaze John & Assimwe M.	1.0	1.4	14-Dec-99
13	Naome Bashabire	3.0	4.6	8-Oct-01
14	Ndyajunwoha Emmanuel	1.0	1.7	26-May-00
15	Nyakashojwa Bakyara Twentugye Group	1.0	2.1	11-Sep-00
16	Prof. T.B Kabwegyere	30.0	32.7	27-Jul-06
17	Rubuzagye Bee Farmers	3.0	6.6	2-Mar-04
18	Rutaitwa Simeo	5.0	26.8	25-Mar-99
19	Rutookye-Kibare Group	1.5	1.9	11-Oct-99
20	Rwanyamuhondo Tweseho Group	2.0	5.2	14-Mar-03
21	Swazi abamanyanjoki Group	3.0	3.6	9-May-03
22	Twinomugisha Isaac	5.0	6.0	9-Oct-01
<b>Total</b>		<b>80.6</b>	<b>157.1</b>	

About ACCU	About WWF
<p>Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU) was formed in January 1999 and later registered as a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) under the NGO Statute in 2004 with the sole objective of providing a forum through which various anti-corruption actors can enhance their capabilities and act as one strong voice and force that can effectively engage government on issues of corruption.</p> <p>ACCU brings together like-minded organizations and individual actors whose pre-occupation is exposure and advocacy in the fight against corruption in Uganda.</p> <p>ACCU works with national Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) engaged in the accountability sector. At the local level, ACCU works with and through Regional Anti-Corruption Coalitions (RACCs) that are spread out in the various parts of the country and of recent grass root member organisations.</p> <p>These include: Teso Anti Corruption Coalition (TAC), Eastern Uganda Anti Corruption Coalition (EUACC), Anti Corruption Coalition of Busoga (ACCOB), Kick Corruption out of Kigezi (KICK), Rwenzori Anti Corruption Coalition (RAC), Mid-western Anti Corruption Coalition (MIRAC); the Apac Anti Corruption Coalition (TAAC), Mayank Anti Corruption Coalition (MACCO) and Northern Uganda Anti Corruption Coalition (NUAC). ACCU also works with Karamoja Anti Corruption Coalition (KACC) and Southern Buganda Anti Corruption Organisation (SBACO).</p> <p>ACCU's interventions are aimed at empowering masses to sustainably and actively demand for accountability at all levels. ACCU empowers citizens to effectively engage local governments on issues of governance and accountability. Together with national level partners, ACCU spearheads the fight against corruption at the national level.</p> <p>ACCU also works closely with a myriad of other partners including; the media, religious leaders, individual activists, academicians, and relevant government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, to augment anti corruption voices at all levels.</p> <p>ACCU's work is premised on the programmatic areas of research and advocacy, information and communication, capacity building, membership and community mobilisation and sensitisation.</p> <p>ACCU'S envisions "A transparent and corruption free society". Its mission is; "To empower citizens to actively and sustainably demand for transparency and accountability from public and private sectors".</p>	<p>World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is one of the World's largest independent and experienced conservation organizations. WWF came into existence on April 29, 1961, when a small group of committed individuals signed a declaration that came to be known as the Morges Manifesto. Today it's one of the World's largest and most experienced independent conservation organizations, with a global network active in more than 100 countries.</p> <p>WWF started work in Uganda in 1982 as a project coordination office, and in 2009 it evolved into the WWF Uganda Country Office (WWF UCO).</p> <p>WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by: conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.</p> <p>Through UCO, WWF supports a number of conservation efforts, including working with government agencies and supporting sustainable development pathways, empowering civil society, the poor and vulnerable communities; to engage in natural resources management, and working with the business community towards responsible trade and sustainable natural resource development.</p> <p>From inception, WWF has been implementing its interventions mostly through a project approach. However, WWF Uganda undertook a re-stratization process and adopted a programmatic approach in place of the project approach. In this effect, WWF Uganda Country Office is prioritizing three programme areas, namely; Forestry and biodiversity, Energy and Climate and Fresh water.</p> <p>The goal of WWF Regional Office for Africa (WWF ROA) is to ensure that through the activities of WWF-UCO and that of other sector players, biodiversity and biological processes in Eastern Africa, and particularly in Uganda, are conserved in harmony with the aspirations of the people of Uganda. The WWF UCO plays an integral part of WWF's Global mission in East Africa.</p>







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[0788107822](https://wa.me/256414535659)

## FORMS OF FOREST ILLEGALITIES

- Illegitimate timber cutting
- Charcoal burning
- Forest encroachment
- Gold mining
- Harvest of medicinal herbs
- Poaching
- Walking sticks and tool handles

## POTENTIAL DRIVERS FOR FOREST ILLEGALITIES

- High levels of poverty
- Limited community awareness of rights, roles and responsibilities
- Human greed
- High demand and ready market for forest resources
- Political interference/statements/promises
- Poor and unfair land allocation procedure



## HOT SPOTS FOR ILLEGAL FOREST ACTIVITIES

- Kalinzu Compartments 1,7,8,10,12,17,26, and 38
- Villages adjacent to Kalinzu and Imaramagambo CFR
- Tributaries to Kiryantama River
- Trading Centres
- Kachuchu Hill for charcoal burning
- Crater lake area in Kalinzu and Imaramagambo
- Roads/Routes (in forest)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote CFM arrangements to enhance forest protection
- Promote Community Based Monitoring and Reporting
- Build the capacity of selected Monitors in forestry policy and legal frameworks. chain of custody lobbying and advocacy
- Equip NFA and UWA to improve effectiveness in forest protection
- Create alternative community income/livelihood sources to reduce dependency on forests
- Promote tree planting to reduce pressure on forest resources
- Promote sustainable land and crop management practices to increase agricultural productivity
- Conduct general community awareness creation on the need to protect forests.