

The FOREST programme will therefore support civil society organisations and the media to:

- Empower poor and natural resource dependant citizens to participate in forest governance
- Monitor implementation of forest policies and laws
- Advocate for fair and appropriate forest laws and regulations at the national and global level

In order to do this effectively, CSOs must improve their own legitimacy, accountability and transparency. Civil society must also strengthen coordination and networking internally and with other stakeholders, and link its efforts to national and international initiatives aimed at improving forest governance

*Forest adjacent communities being trained in forest management*



## Strategic partners

**Civil society** The partnership has been developed on the basis of the partners knowledge and experience mobilizing natural resource dependant citizens to contribute to national debates, partner's ability to engage with parliament, media and other platforms in prioritizing forestry advocacy issues and systematically linking sub national lobbying and advocacy initiatives to national policy processes, through enabling horizontal and vertical linkages at local, sub national, national, regional and international level.

**Environmental Alert:** Civil society networking in forest sector and linkages to regional and international levels

**Joint Efforts to Save the Environment:** Forest sector monitoring and multi-stakeholder collaboration at the district and inter district level

**Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda:** Collecting data, documentation & advocacy on forest policies and their Implementation at regional and national level

**PANOS EA:** Strategic partnerships between Civil Society and the media. Increase debate and info about forests and natural resources in the media

**ACODE:** Research, policy analysis and budget advocacy

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# FOREST RESOURCES SECTOR TRANSPARENCY PROGRAMME IN UGANDA



*Community based monitors on forest patrols around Matiri forest reserve in Kyenjojo District*



## Introduction

Uganda's forest cover is reducing at an alarming rate. Between 1990 and 2005, 1.3 million hectares (27%) was lost. If this trend continues coupled with the rapid population growth rate of 3.2% per annum, then Uganda will be devoid of significant forest cover within a few decades. Forests are essential not only to sustain biodiversity, but also to support the country's economy and people's livelihoods – in particular through the supply of timber and energy. Forests are also vital in combating climate change by providing



carbon storage and sequestration services

### *Forest as a source of firewood for forest adjacent communities*

Despite government recognition of the deforestation problem, efforts to arrest the situation have been insufficient and ineffective. Despite a reform of forest policies and institutions in the early 2000s, there are occurrences of forest degradation and illegal logging and encroachment. Given the pressure for more farm land, encroachment on forest reserves appears to be accepted and at times even encouraged by central and local government as a means to buy political support.



*Forest adjacent communities in a dialogue with duty bearers of Kyenjojo District*

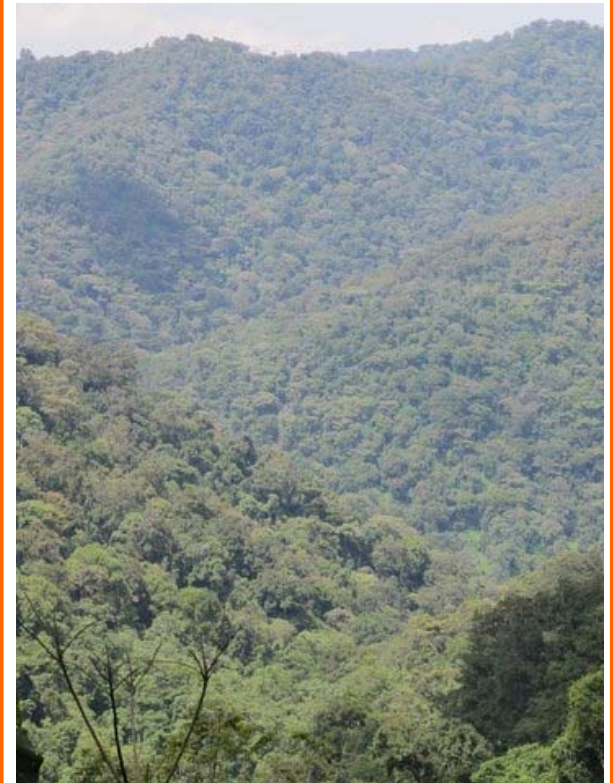
## CARE interventions

For the last 20 years, CARE has promoted sustainable management and equitable access to natural resources in Uganda mainly within the Albertine Rift. This area of high biodiversity has more land under conservation than any other region. This imposes a high cost on communities living adjacent to protected areas in the form of displacement, access and usage restrictions, human-wildlife conflict and geographical exclusion from social services and other opportunities. CARE and its partners have sought to address these issues through the Women Empowerment in Natural resource Governance Programme (WENG) which has sub programmes such as Strengthening Local Governance in Natural resources (SLOGIN), Rights, Equity and Protected Areas (REPA), combating illegal Trade in Timber and Charcoal through stakeholder Cooperation (COTTCH) and the Forest Resources Sector Transparency (FOREST) programme.

CARE's natural resource programmes in Uganda have successfully piloted approaches to strengthen community participation in natural resource governance and have influenced numerous government policies and practices in the sector.

## FOREST programme focus

Sustaining and building upon the effective interventions of the past, CARE's Forest Resources Sector Transparency (FOREST) programme, 2013-2017. The programme aims at increasing transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the forest sector to benefit the country's poor citizen's dependent on forest resources.



*Itwara forest reserve in Kabarole District*