

- ◆ to ensure that all activities done under the license granted or issued are in accordance with the forest management plan prepared by the forest management institution or private person.
- ◆ to ensure that no other forest produce is destroyed or damaged within the forest during the execution of the rights under the license.
- ◆ to pay compensation for any forest produce destroyed or damaged by the activities of the licensee.
- ◆ to pay license fees.

The responsibilities of the second kind of forest user (who is each and every one of us) include some of the following:-

- ◆ to report the presence of any unlicensed timber in any vehicle, house or shop to the nearest police station/post or the nearest National Forestry Authority office.
- ◆ to report any licensed forest user who is in breach of the license or conducting any illegal activities which are not authorised by the license.
- ◆ to encourage good forestry practices by buying wood products from wood processors who have obtained sawn timber from persons or companies/firms licensed by the forest management institutions like the National Forestry Authority.

Who is a forest manager?

A forest manager is any one who is empowered by the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act to manage and develop any forest recognised under the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act e.g the National Forestry Authority for the Central Forest Reserves, the District Forestry Office in each district is responsible for the Local Forest Reserves, private persons/ individuals for private forests, communities for community forests, Uganda Wildlife Authority for Forest Reserves found within Game Parks. As can

be seen a forest manager may be an individual or a corporate body. Sometimes these forest managers in the case of corporate bodies may be referred to as forest management institutions. Under the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, the forest management institutions/forest managers are called responsible bodies.

What are the responsibilities of forest managers / forest management institution?

The responsibilities of a forest management institution can be summarized as the following:-

- ◆ to develop and prepare management plans for the forests under their management.
- ◆ to submit forest management plans to the Minister of Water and Environment for his/her approval.
- ◆ to plan for and grant access to persons or corporate entities (companies or firms) or communities through licenses for authorized activities within the forests in accordance with the approved forest management plans.
- ◆ to disseminate good forestry practices and standards to the communities and private sector partners.
- ◆ to manage forests under their mandate by the law.
- ◆ to apprehend and cause prosecution of illegal operatives within the forests.
- ◆ to supervise the activities of all license holders (licensees) within the forests that they manage.
- ◆ to conduct environmental audits of licensed activities within the forests that they manage.
- ◆ to advise and provide tree farmers with quality seeds/tree seedlings.
- ◆ to promote tree planting.



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

SENSITISATION PACK No: 2

FORESTS AND YOU

Roles and responsibilities of forest users and forest managers

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What is a forest?

A forest is any vegetation that is mostly composed of trees of any size, and includes:

- ◆ **Any forest which is established by law.** This includes all forest reserves, community forests, privately owned forests, forests under management of cultural leaders, etc.
- ◆ **Anyforest.** They include forests which occurred naturally or a woodland or plantation forest.
- ◆ **Any forest produce.** This includes anything which grows or occurs in the forest like honey, mushrooms, trees, timber, firewood, charcoal, bark cloth, seeds, stone, clay, gravel, any living organism, etc.
- ◆ **The forest ecosystem.** Those other living things which live within a forest.

What do forests do for us?

A forest can provide a number of products/services to the community namely:

- ◆ A number of herbs which can be used in the treatment of illnesses in humans.
- ◆ Food for us.
- ◆ Shelter materials to the community like roofing timber, furniture etc.
- ◆ A source of livelihood in the wood processing industry e.g provision of employment opportunities.
- ◆ A home to the earth's biodiversity both the known and Unknown.
- ◆ Act as wind breakers especially in hilly areas.
- ◆ Prevent soil erosion.
- ◆ Provide us with fuel wood like charcoal.

What is forest produce?

Forest produce means anything which occurs

naturally in the forest. Forest produce includes the following:-

Category one

- ❖ Trees
- ❖ Firewood
- ❖ Roots
- ❖ Charcoal
- ❖ Gum
- ❖ Leaves
- ❖ seeds
- ❖ Branch wood
- ❖ Bark
- ❖ Slabs
- ❖ Withes
- ❖ Fibres
- ❖ Wood oil
- ❖ Flowers
- ❖ Construction poles
- ❖ Timber
- ❖ Wattle
- ❖ Saw dust
- ❖ Resins
- ❖ Latex
- ❖ Fruits

Category two

- ❖ honey
- ❖ orchids
- ❖ wood ash
- ❖ mushrooms
- ❖ climbers
- ❖ litter
- ❖ grass
- ❖ creepers
- ❖ soil

Category three

- ❖ stone
- ❖ sand occurring naturally in the forest and is not considered to be a mineral under the Mining Act.
- ❖ gravel
- ❖ clay

Category four

- ❖ a living organism
- ❖ product or derivative of a living organism

Who is a forest user?

There are two types of forest users namely:-

- ◆ Those that are licensed (licensees).
- ◆ Each and everyone of us.

Type One

Any one who has obtained a license to enter into any forest for purposes of cutting, taking or removing any forest produce whether from a private forest owner or the National Forestry Authority or the District Forestry

office in any district or the cultural kingdoms or the Uganda Wildlife Authority or a forest user group, to perform any act or do anything which is authorized under the license provided it is for forestry purposes qualifies as a forest user.

Examples of forest users are charcoal licensees, medicinal herb collection licensees, tree planting licensees, ecotourism development licensees, saw milling licensees, pit sawing licensees, etc.

Type Two

It is also important that every body acknowledge that you do not need to have a license to qualify as a forest user. Each and every one of us uses forest products like wood, honey, clay, sand etc in our day to day lives, we have wooden furniture, our children sit on wooden furniture at school, we all use paper for typing, writing, some use charcoal for fuel, we rely on medicinal herb collected from the forests, we have built houses using clay bricks, concrete blocks, sand from the forest, etc. We therefore need to be concerned about how the forests are being used by those who have been given licenses to conduct activities within the forests.

What are my responsibilities as a forest user?

Any forest user has a number of duties or obligations to the community and to the forest manager who has granted the license some of which include the following:-

- ◆ to comply with each and every terms and conditions contained in the license granted.
- ◆ to prevent fires within the forest or assist in putting out fires that break out in the forest.
- ◆ to report the presence of illegal operatives within the forest.
- ◆ to ensure that all activities done in accordance with the license issued are in line with the environmental impact assessment report.