

## FOREST CERTIFICATION

Responsible forest management is one of UTGA'S core beliefs. We believe that if our forests are managed in a Socially, Environmentally and Economically sound manner, the sky is the limit for our investments.

UTGA operates a Group Scheme for FSC Certification and has worked closely with FSC for training, internal assessments, information sharing and documentation, gap analysis among others. UTGA also worked with the Center for Modernization of Operations (CMO) in preparing the six pioneer Forest Management Units (FMUs) for FSC certification.

Six FMUs applied to be a part of the Scheme but internal assessments revealed only three FMUs were ready and were thus assessed after all their non conformances had been closed by the time of the main assessment in December 2018. These passed the main assessment and UTGA obtained the first Group Scheme Certificate for plantation forest management in Africa. UTGA is now embarking on an extension of scope to include several other FMUs on the certificate within the same resource unit and for new resource units or grower clusters.

**ECONOMIC**  
Responsible  
& Profitable

**ECOLOGICAL**  
Biodiversity &  
Ecological Process

**SOCIAL**  
Local People  
& Society at Large

These three sectors are interdependent and must be equally weighted and managed.

The individual plantation owner can certify his plantation under the FSC certification body or can participate within a group scheme under a joint certificate. This is typical for groups of tree growers like UTGA. The group certification process allows for the extension of scope by adding new Forest Management Units that meet the certification requirements from time to time.



*Preparations for the main assessment in Mubende Dec 2018*

### The Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC)

Global markets trading in forest products demand proof that their products are sustainable, environmentally, socially and are well financially managed. In order to verify these products and the process of distributing them, an independent certifying body was required for verification which gave birth to FSC.

FSC then set up ten main principles (also called code of conduct) which form the foundation of "Responsible Forestry Management" and consist of social, economic and environmental pillars.

### The 10 FSC Principles

- #1 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES**  
Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.
- #2 TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**  
Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.

## Benefits of FSC Certification to Tree Growers



### #3 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.

### #4 COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKER'S RIGHTS

Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.

### #5 BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST

Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.

### #6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.

### #7 MANAGEMENT PLAN

A management plan shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.

### #8 MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

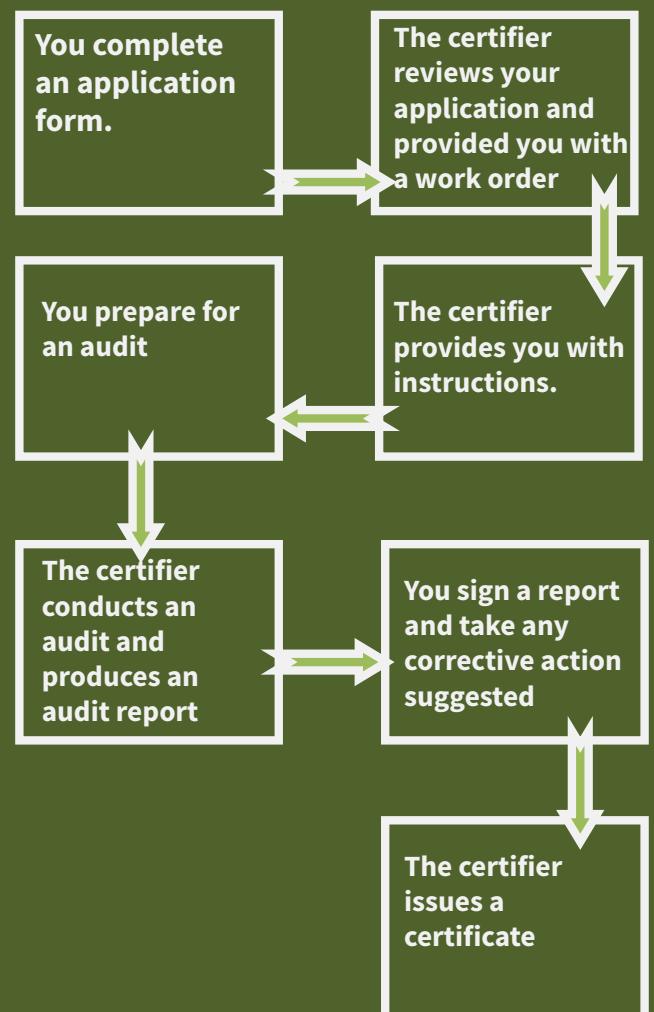
Monitoring shall be conducted - appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management - to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.

### #9 MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes that define such forests.


### #10 PLANTATIONS

Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with all FSC Principles and Criteria.



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