



The Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration Network - Uganda

STRATEGIC PLAN
2024 -2028



STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 - 2028

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THE FARMER MANAGED



List of Acronyms

A2N Africa 2000 Network, Uganda

ADP Area Development Program

CRS Catholic Relief Services

CSO Civil Society Organizations

DEC District Executive Committee

DENRC District Environmental and Natural Resources Committee

DFA District Farmers Association
DLG District Local Government

EADEN Eastern Archdiocesan Development Network

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization

FMNR Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration

FSSD Forest Sector Support Department

GIZ The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

ICRAF World Agroforestry Center (CIFOR – ICRAF Uganda)

IEC Information Education and Communication
KECP Kaliro Environment Conservation Project

LWF Lutheran World Federation

MAAIF Ministry of Agriculture, Animal and Fisheries Industry

MFEPD Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

MWE Ministry of Water and Environment

NARO National Agriculture Research Organization
NEMA National Environment Management Authority

NFA National Forestry Authority

NFP National Forestry Plan

PDC Parish Development Committees

TTP Tree Talk Plus

UNDP United Nations Development Program UNFFE Uganda National Farmers Federation

Vi Vi Agroforestry

WVU World Vision Uganda

Acknowledgement

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the following individuals, organizations, and entities whose contributions and support have been invaluable in the development of the Strategic Plan for the Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) Network for the period 2024 to 2028. The FMNR Network would like to extend particular thanks to:

- The Government of Uganda for its leadership and support in mainstreaming FMNR into policy frameworks, development plans, and investment strategies, thereby creating an enabling environment for the implementation of FMNR initiatives.
- The Local Governments, Line Ministries, Agencies, and Departments at both the national and local levels for supporting FMNR activities and promoting environmental sustainability and climate resilience.
- Members of the FMNR Network who are 66 members have actively participated in the development of this strategic plan, contributing their expertise, insights, and perspectives to shape its vision and objectives.
- We extend our gratitude to our development partners for their continued support and collaboration in promoting sustainable land management practices, biodiversity conservation, and environmental stewardship in Uganda. We particularly wish to thank Viagroforestry and World Vision Uganda for the financial and technical support in developing this plan.
- We recognize and appreciate the important role of the private sector in driving innovation, investment, and market-based solutions for sustainable land management and community development. We appreciate their partnership and engagement in supporting FMNR initiatives.
- Special acknowledgment goes to Tree Talk Plus, the FMNR Secretariat that hosts the Network, for their dedicated efforts in facilitating the development of this strategic plan, providing technical support, and coordinating stakeholder engagements throughout the planning process.

Together, let us commit ourselves to the realization of this shared vision, working hand in hand to build a more sustainable and resilient future for Uganda and its people.

Foreword

elcome to the journey of innovation, sustainability, and community empowerment encapsulated within the pages of this strategic plan. In the heart of Uganda, amidst its verdant landscapes and vibrant communities, lies an ambitious vision for the future of land management: the Strategic Plan for Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) for the next five years, spanning from 2024 to 2028.

This strategic plan represents more than just a document; it's a blueprint for transformative change, a testament to the power collaboration, and a beacon of hope for a more resilient and equitable future. It embodies the collective aspirations of stakeholders across Uganda, from government agencies and NGOs to local communities and farmers, who have come together with a shared commitment to harnessing the potential of FMNR to address pressing environmental challenges and improve livelihoods. Within these pages, you will find a comprehensive roadmap that outlines strategic objectives, action plans, and key performance indicators aimed at unleashing the full potential of FMNR across Uganda. From enhancing soil fertility and water retention to promoting biodiversity conservation and climate resilience, this plan reflects a holistic approach to sustainable land management that recognizes the interconnectedness of ecological health, community well-being, and economic prosperity.

Moreover, this strategic plan is not merely a theoretical framework but a reflection of real-world experiences, lessons learned, and best practices gleaned from years of on-the-ground implementation and stakeholder engagement. It draws upon the rich tapestry of indigenous knowledge, traditional practices, and innovative solutions that have shaped Uganda's landscape for generations, blending them with cutting-edge research, technology, and expertise to forge a path toward sustainable development.

As you delve into the details of this strategic plan, I encourage you to envision the possibilities it holds – the reforested hillsides



But beyond the vision lies the imperative for action. The success of this plan hinges not only on its formulation but on its implementation — on the commitment, dedication, and collaboration of all stakeholders to turn vision into reality.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to the development of this strategic plan – the visionaries, the innovators, and the champions of sustainability – whose unwavering dedication and tireless efforts have brought us to this pivotal moment. Together, let us embark on this journey with renewed determination, united in our pursuit of a brighter, greener, and more prosperous future for Uganda and beyond.

Mr. Gerald Kato Chairperson, Steering Committee FMNR Network Uganda

Statement from the Secretariat

In the dynamic landscape of land management and environmental conservation, the development of the Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) strategic plan for the period 2024 to 2028 represents a significant milestone in Uganda's journey towards sustainable development. This statement serves as both a reflection on the journey that led to the creation of this Strategic Plan and an invitation to embark on the next phase of our collective efforts to realize its ambitious goals.

The genesis of this Strategic Plan can be traced back to a shared recognition of the urgent need to address pressing environmental challenges while simultaneously improving livelihoods and promoting social equity. As Uganda grapples with the impacts of climate change, deforestation, soil degradation, and loss of biodiversity, the imperative for innovative, community-driven solutions has never been more apparent.

The Strategic Plan emerged from a collaborative process involving government agencies, NGOs, academia, civil society organizations, local communities, and farmers, all united by a common vision of harnessing the potential of FMNR to address multifaceted challenges and create positive change. Drawing upon diverse perspectives, expertise, and experiences, stakeholders came together to identify key result areas and strategic objectives that would guide our collective efforts over the next five years.

Result Area 1 underscores the importance of engaging government and other partners to ensure the uptake and adoption of the FMNR model in the implementation of projects and programs. By fostering partnerships and collaboration at all levels, we aim to mainstream FMNR into policy frameworks, development plans, and investment strategies, thereby maximizing its impact and reach.

Result Area 2 focuses on improving biodiversity conservation through natural regeneration, recognizing the crucial role that FMNR plays in restoring degraded ecosystems, enhancing habitat connectivity, and preserving native flora and fauna. By prioritizing biodiversity conservation, we seek to safeguard Uganda's rich natural heritage for future generations while promoting ecosystem resilience and ecosystem services.

Result Area 3 highlights our commitment to promoting environmental sustainability and climate justice through FMNR, recognizing the inherent linkages between environmental degradation,

social inequality, and climate vulnerability. By empowering communities to adopt sustainable land management practices, we aim to mitigate climate change impacts, enhance resilience, and promote equitable access to natural resources.

Result Area 4 underscores the importance of amplifying citizens' voices and participation in the FMNR model, recognizing that meaningful engagement and empowerment are essential for sustainable development. By fostering inclusive decision-making processes and strengthening community ownership, we seek to build social capital, foster resilience, and promote local governance.

Result Area 5 emphasizes the need for FMNR practice to be inclusive and gender-responsive, recognizing the unique contributions, knowledge, and priorities of women, youth, and marginalized groups. By promoting gender equality and social inclusion, we aim to harness the full potential of all members of society in driving positive change and building resilience.

Result Area 6 focuses on strengthening the institutional governance of the FMNR network in Uganda, recognizing the importance of effective coordination, capacity-building, and knowledge-sharing mechanisms. By enhancing institutional governance, we aim to foster collaboration, facilitate learning, and promote accountability within the FMNR community.

As we embark on the implementation of this strategic plan, we recognize that the journey ahead will be marked by challenges, uncertainties, and opportunities. However, we are guided by a shared vision of a greener, more prosperous future for Uganda, where communities thrive in harmony with nature, and ecosystems flourish for generations to come.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to the development of this Strategic Plan, whose passion, dedication, and expertise have been instrumental in shaping its vision and objectives.

Mr. Gaster Kiyingi Team Leader, Tree Talk Plus The FMNR Network Secretariat

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Executive Summary

The Strategic Plan for the Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) Network for the period 2024 to 2028 sets forth a comprehensive roadmap for advancing sustainable land management practices, fostering community empowerment, and promoting environmental stewardship across Uganda. This executive summary provides a condensed overview of the key elements outlined in the strategic plan.

The introduction provides a clear definition of FMNR and outlines the rationale for the development of a new strategic plan. It highlights the importance of FMNR in landscape restoration and its potential to contribute to livelihood improvement and smallholder household resilience.

The strategic direction section articulates the goal, vision, mission, core values, key results, key approaches, strategic areas of intervention, and FMNR Theory of Change. The goal is to contribute to livelihood improvement and smallholder household resilience through landscape restoration approaches using FMNR.

This section on implementation arrangements outlines the governance structure of the FMNR Network, including the composition of the network, recruitment of members, roles of members, and network meetings. It establishes clear guidelines for effective collaboration and coordination among network members.

Anticipated implementation risks, including operational risks, strategic risks, and external risks, are identified and addressed in this section. Risk management strategies are outlined to mitigate potential challenges and ensure the successful implementation of the strategic plan.

Effective communication strategies are crucial for disseminating information, fostering stakeholder engagement, and building support for FMNR initiatives. This section outlines communication strategies aimed at raising awareness, promoting dialogue, and facilitating knowledge-sharing among stakeholders.

Securing adequate financing and resources is essential for implementing the strategic plan effectively. This section provides an overview of estimated revenue sources and strategies for resource mobilization to support FMNR activities.

A robust monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning framework is essential for tracking progress, assessing impact, and ensuring accountability. This section outlines key components of the MEAL framework, including indicators, data collection methods, and mechanisms for feedback and learning.

In conclusion, the Strategic Plan for the FMNR Network outlines a holistic approach to sustainable land management, community empowerment, and environmental stewardship. By prioritizing engagement, biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability, citizen participation, inclusivity, and institutional governance, we are poised to make significant strides toward a greener, more prosperous future for Uganda and its people.

Introduction

1.1 Definition of FMNR

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) model is the systematic regeneration of natural trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants from stumps, roots, leaves, wildings, and buried seeds in the soil. It hinges on the ability of most indigenous tree species to regenerate or coppice naturally if allowed to do so. It was developed by World Vision to address issues of environmental degradation and is a low-cost, scalable option for sustainable re-greening of landscapes.

1.2 About the FMNR Network

The Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) Network is a coalition of multistakeholder organizations and individuals who aim at scaling up the FMNR model as a means of improving biodiversity, food sovereignty, nutrition, mitigation and adaptation of climate change, biomass energy, tree-water relation and secure inclusive income in Uganda.

The network was formed in July 2014, launched in June 2015, and, currently has 66 member organizations operating in different geographical areas across the country that have adopted or are in the process of adopting the FMNR model.

The Network Coordinates organizations and individuals implementing the FMNR model in Uganda. It builds the capacity of individuals and organizations in quality guidance towards a farmer-managed natural regeneration approach, to grow trees from stumps, roots, and wildlings growing from seeds buried in the soils. It facilitates the establishment of demonstration sites or plots to showcase and popularize FMNR best practices and engagement.

Additionally, the Network conducts research, knowledge sharing, networking, sensitization, lobbying and advocacy, resource mobilization, and coordinating efforts of its members so that they can effectively scale up FMNR among small, medium, and large-scale farmers in their respective host communities.

It works with communities to exploit sustainable natural resources by allowing the integration of income-generating activities, forest foods and medicines, biodiversity, biomass energy, climate amelioration, and inclusivity concerns about gender and climate resilience.

Notwithstanding, the network develops knowledge, skills, and information relating to Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration and shares it with a wider stakeholder category. Stakeholders include academia, community-based organizations, development partners, media, cultural and religious leaders, farmer organizations, farming families, natural resource users, civil society, the private sector, and government institutions. It uses multimedia channels for communication, education, public awareness stakeholder engagement, and advocacy

1.3 Rationale for a new strategic plan

The review of the Strategic Plan for the FMNR Network arises from many years of implementing the strategic plan 2014 – 2017. After 2017, the Network spent 6 years without a fully operational SP till 2024. The Network experienced changes in the policies and strategic spheres as exemplified by the review of the forestry policy and (and the proposed review of the forestry law), new dimensions in the climate change arena, the National Development Plan (NDP III), the need for strategic thinking to align with gender inclusivity among others.

This new Strategic Plan has been designed to capture emerging opportunities, address gaps, and challenges, and align it with current developments in the sectors of environment and natural resources management, climate change, and land and water resources management. The strategic plan not only consolidates the gains made by the Network but also tackles the FMNR challenges ahead. Some of the challenges include the desire to continuously engage the government for uptake and adoption of the FMNR model, to improve biodiversity conservation by allowing trees to naturally regenerate, to promote environmental sustainability and climate justice through FMNR, to amplify the citizen's voice and participation in the FMNR model, the need for FMNR practice to be inclusive and gender-responsive and the need to enhance institutional governance of the FMNR network in Uganda.

To be able to contribute to the National Development Plan III, Vision 2040, Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 13, 15, and the broader 2030 Development Agenda

Strategic Direction

To contribute to livelihood improvement and household resilience through FMNR landscape restoration approaches.

2.2 Vision

Improved livelihoods, ecosystem resilience, and biodiversity conservation.

2.3 **Mission**

To establish strong partnerships for scaling Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration approaches.

2.4 Core values

- Commitment i. Accountability ii.
- iii. Transparency Passionate iv.
- Green life v.
- vi. Inclusiveness and Equity

2.5 **Country Context of FMNR**

Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration has a engagement, and sustainability. long history in Uganda. This approach involves 1. Networking, coordination, building alliances farmers nurturing the natural regeneration of trees, herbaceous plants, and shrubs from roots, stumps, or seeds on their farmland. It's a practice deeply rooted in traditional agricultural knowledge and has been adapted and formalized in various regions of Uganda. Where agriculture is the backbone of the economy and livelihoods, FMNR has been particularly valuable in restoring degraded lands, improving soil fertility, enhancing water retention, and providing additional benefits such as fodder, fuelwood, and income diversification for farmers. For that reason, FMNR has been practiced for generations, often integrating trees, herbaceous plants, and shrubs into their agricultural landscapes for various purposes, including shade, soil conservation, and food production. Efforts to scale up FMNR initiatives in Uganda have facilitated collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and local communities to promote sustainable land management practices and improve agricultural productivity while conserving natural resources.

2.6 **Key Result Areas**

As such, this strategic plan seeks to target key result areas going forward, and these are:

Result area 1 Mainstream FMNR model in Government/Partners' projects and programs Result Area 2 : biodiversity

Improve conservation through FMNR

Result Area 3 : Contribute environmental sustainability and climate justice through FMNR,

Result Area 4 : Increase the citizen's voice and participation in the FMNR model,

Result Area 5 : Ensure inclusivity gender-responsiveness among FMNR practitioners Result Area 6 : Strengthen institutional governance of the FMNR network in Uganda

2.7 Key approaches for delivering the strategic areas

Delivering strategic areas in initiatives like FMNR typically involves a combination of approaches that address various aspects of implementation,

- and partnerships This means, the Network will forge partnerships between government NGOs, academic agencies, institutions, private sector entities, and local communities to leverage resources, expertise, and networks for FMNR implementation. Collaboration and coordination will enhance the reach and impact of initiatives and promote knowledge sharing.
- 2. Capacity building, training, and establishment of demonstration plots or sites. The network will provide training and capacity-building programs for farmers, extension workers, and other stakeholders involved in FMNR. This will include technical skills training in tree identification, pruning techniques, and sustainable land management practices.
- 3. Use of technology in information development, documentation, education, communication, dissemination, public awareness, sensitization. It is intended to trigger action and actively involve local communities in decision-making processes, planning, and implementation. It will entail equipping

- farmers with knowledge and skills related to FMNR techniques and fostering ownership of the initiative to ensure long-term sustainability.
- 4. Collaborate and engage partners for FMNR best practices The network will bring together a diverse coalition of stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, farmers' associations, and community-based organizations, to advocate for FMNR best practices. The coalition will act as an inspiration to amplify the advocacy efforts and increase the visibility and credibility of the campaign.
- 5. Advocacy and lobbying policymakers for an enabling environment at all levels. The network will build strong relationships with policymakers and partners through regular communication, networking, and collaboration. It will engage them in dialogue forums, workshops, conferences, and policy events to exchange ideas, share information, and build trust.
- 6. Resource mobilization—The network will map existing resources available within Uganda, including government budgets, donor funding, grants, philanthropic organizations, corporate social responsibility initiatives, and community contributions, and develop targeted tools for resource mobilization.
- 7. Scaling out the successful experiences
- By employing these key approaches in delivering strategic areas, FMNR initiatives can effectively promote sustainable land management, restore ecosystems, and improve the resilience of communities to environmental challenges.

2.8 Strategic Areas of Intervention

During the next five years of its implementation, the Network will be able to perform as highlighted below concerning each result area;

Strategic Area 1: To mainstream the FMNR model in Government/Partners' projects and programs

- a. Conduct a thorough analysis of existing policies, laws, and regulations related to land use, forestry, agriculture, and environmental conservation to identify opportunities and barriers to integrating FMNR into government programs and initiatives.
- b. Develop targeted advocacy messages and policy recommendations advocating for the integration of FMNR into national, regional, and local policies, strategies, and action plans

- related to land restoration, climate change adaptation, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development.
- c. Engage directly with policymakers and government officials at Local Government, Central Government, and Academia, through meetings, workshops, roundtable discussions, and policy briefings to raise awareness about FMNR, present evidence-based arguments, and advocate for policy changes and investments to support FMNR implementation and work closely with government agencies, research institutions, and development partners to mainstream FMNR into existing initiatives and investment plans.

Strategic Area 2: To improve biodiversity conservation through FMNR

- a. Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, academic and research institutions, local conservation organizations, and individual farmers, to leverage resources, expertise, and networks to develop incentive mechanisms, such as payments for ecosystem services, carbon credits or certification schemes, to reward farmers for adopting biodiversity-friendly FMNR practices. Provide technical support to facilitate their transition towards more sustainable land management approaches.
- Increase species diversity and ecosystem resilience by scaling up the regeneration of trees, herbaceous plants, and shrubs that enhance flora and fauna and provide ecosystem services (including pollination, soil fertility, water conservation, and carbon sequestration among others).
- c. Promote regeneration of indigenous tree species from stumps, roots, wildlings, and seeds buried in the ground in degraded agricultural lands.

Strategic Area 3: To promote environmental sustainability and Climate Justice through FMNR.

- *a. Environmental sustainability* This will be done through:
- Improving soil health and fertility by increasing organic matter, enhancing soil structure, and reducing erosion
- ii. Promoting sustainable charcoal and firewood production in FMNR sites and plots
- iii. Promoting energy efficiency options such as energy-saving stoves within FMNR

households,

- iv. Promoting the Integrated Watershed Resources Management approaches to improve freshwater sources in communities
- v. Enhancing livelihoods through nature-based enterprises and FMNR.

b. Climate Justice:

- i. To build capacity and understanding of FMNR households to mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through tree growth and enhancing soil carbon storage.
- ii. To build the capacity of FMNR households for climate change adaptation to improve soil fertility, water retention, and biodiversity, while increasing the resilience of farming communities to climate-related risks such as prolonged droughts and floods.
- iii. To improve livelihoods by addressing inequalities in access to resources and opportunities.

Strategic Area 4: To increase the citizens' voice and participation in FMNR.

- Provide training and capacity-building opportunities to community members, including women and vulnerable groups to enhance their understanding of FMNR management/ 2.9 techniques, benefits, and practices to empower them to actively participate in FMNR initiatives.
- b. Foster collaboration and partnerships between various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and local community-based organizations, to support FMNR initiatives.
- c. Conduct awareness campaigns, educational workshops, and exchange visits to increase knowledge and experience sharing on FMNR and its benefits for local communities, livelihoods, and the environment. Use various communication channels such as radio, community meetings, posters, and social media to reach a wide audience.
- d. Create community platforms and facilitate engagements with farmers to help them understand their needs, priorities, and existing knowledge about FMNR.
- e. Document and share success stories, lessons learned, and best practices from FMNR initiatives within and across communities including traditional and indigenous methods of FMNR.

Strategic Area 5: To ensure inclusivity and gender-responsiveness among FMNR practitioners

- a. Ensure that the planning and decision-making processes related to FMNR are inclusive and participatory, with representation from diverse community members, including persons with disabilities, women, men, youth, children, and elders.
- Recognize and promote the value of women, youth, and children's contributions to FMNR activities such as tree caring, agroforestry, and sustainable land management,
- c. Promote gender equity, and equality in FMNR practices by addressing gender disparities in access to resources, decision-making, benefits, and rights to resources.

Strategic Area 6: To strengthen institutional governance of the FMNR network in Uganda

- a. To strengthen the governance structure of the FMNR network
- b. To mobilize resources for the network through fundraising, proposal writing, and membership fee collection.
- c. To develop and adopt policies and guidelines for the network.
- d. To support the FMNR network members comply with national regulations.

2.9 Indicators of the strategic areas

The Strategic Plan identifies key strategic areas that will drive our collective efforts to regenerate Uganda's ecosystems, bolster community resilience, and promote sustainable land management. These strategic areas are designed to address the multifaceted challenges faced by farmers and communities while leveraging the opportunities presented by FMNR.

The indicators here below are for each strategic area and shall be used to monitor the progress of achievement of the Strategic Plan.

2.10 FMNR Logic Model

Although FMNR is entrenched in the environment and natural resources, climate change, and land and water resources management, and is beginning to receive more visibility, it is predominantly stressed and less prioritized when allocating resources to implement programs and projects of FMNR nature. Addressing this issue will require greater commitment from many different stakeholders in both private and public institutions. Partnerships

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Table 1: Indicators per resu	
Result area	Indicator
Result area 1:	a) No. of policy reviews conducted to identify opportunities and barriers to integrating FMNR
Mainstream FMNR	into government programs and initiatives.
model in	b) No. of districts incorporating FMNR in District Development Plans
Government/Partners'	c) No. of targeted advocacy tools and policy recommendations developed
projects and programs	d) No. of partners that have taken and adopted FMNR into their programs
Result Area 2: Improve	a. No. of farmers empowered benefiting from reward mechanisms such as carbon credits,
biodiversity conservation	Payment for Ecosystem Services
through FMNR	b. No. of trees, herbaceous plants, and shrub species regenerated
	c. No. of trees regenerated per unit area. (Tree density/hectare, physical counting, using Apps,
	GPS, etc.)
	d. No. of hectares/acres under FMNR e. No. of new species of fauna re-occurring /re-emerged documented
Result Area 3: Contribute	Environmental sustainability
to environmental	a. Increase in food production and productivity.
sustainability and climate	b. Increase in food diversity
justice through FMNR	c. Number of Households practising the FMNR model that are reporting increased food
justice tillough PWINK	production
	d. The number of households practising nature-based solutions (adopting soil and water
	conservation practices) in areas where interventions such as composting, mulching, cover
	cropping, and FMNR are implemented.
	e. No. of households adopting sustainable charcoal production and have access to timber, firewood, and poles
	f. No. of households using energy-efficient stoves
	g. No. of households accessing safe water in areas where agroecological practices and FMNR are
	implemented
	Climate Justice
	a. No. of households trained on climate justice and FMNR
	b. No. of trained households that have adopted FMNR
	c. No. of households enrolling for carbon credit sales as a result of FMNR training,
	sensitization, and adoption Uganda
	d. No. of FMNR households ¹ practising Climate-Resilient Farming Practices
	e. No. of FMNR households adopting livelihood diversification and income-generating
D 1 4 / T	activities.
Result Area 4: Increase	a. No. of community members, (disaggregated by gender and vulnerable groups), participating in
the citizen's voice and	FMNR training and capacity-building programs b. No. of partnerships established with stakeholders to support FMNR activities.
participation in the	c. No. of knowledge and experience sharing events conducted on FMNR initiatives.
FMNR model	d. No. of publications on FMNR traditional and Indigenous Practices developed and
	disseminated.
	e. No. of publications on FMNR developed and disseminated
Result Area 5: Ensure	a. No. of women, persons with disabilities, men, youth and elderly holding leadership roles in the
inclusivity and gender-	FMNR network.
responsiveness among	b. Percentage of women, youth, migrants, and children actively engaged in FMNR activities c. Percentage of resources allocated (such as land, regenerated trees, training, and financial
FMNR practitioners	c. Percentage of resources allocated (such as land, regenerated trees, training, and financial support) in FMNR initiatives based on gender equality principles
Result Area 6: Strengthen	a. No. of functional regional nodes with governance structures
institutional governance	b. No. of resource mobilization strategies developed for the FMNR Network
50vernance	0 1

¹ FMNR households refer to households that practice Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR).

will need to be established, new financial resources for investment made available, and specialized expertise drawn on.

Therefore, the FMNR logic model provides a visualization of what this strategic plan is intended to achieve and what it will take in the interim

medium-term, and long term. To realize a long-term vision for FMNR, the FMNR network will play its role of lobbying and advocacy, creating awareness of the FMNR model, and creating demonstration sites to ensure that duty bearers focus on investments in FMNR.

Table 1: Logic model

IF (Intervention)	THEN (output)	THEREFORE (Outcome)
 - We continue mainstreaming the FMNR model in Government/Partners' projects and programs - We improve biodiversity conservation through FMNR by allowing trees to naturally regenerate, - We contribute to environmental sustainability and climate justice through FMNR, - We increase the citizen's voice and participation in the FMNR model, - We ensure inclusivity and gender-responsiveness among 	 We will increase the uptake and adoption of FMNR model and practices, We will create a positive change in biodiversity by allowing Indigenous trees to grow, We will sequester carbon and reduce the impacts of climate change and associated injustices, risks, and shocks, We will increase opportunities for livelihoods from FMNR practices, We will get women and the extremely vulnerable 	Empowered FMNR communities, contributing to a positive change in biodiversity, a climate change resilient community, and sustainable livelihoods.
FMNR practitioners, - We strengthen institutional governance of the FMNR network in Uganda	communities to get involved, - And FMNR as an approach will flourish.	

To achieve this result, the FMNR Network will implement interventions that are laid out in the six themes addressing environment and natural resources, climate change, and land and water resources management. The core theme of action will entail building a body of practitioners advocating for FMNR to achieve an inclusive, mass action that puts FMNR at the forefront to address biodiversity, climate change concerns, and livelihood improvement through income-generating activities related to FMNR. Among the other actions will be the FMNR Network (for both the members and the secretariat) through capacity-building undertakings, partnerships, and technologies that amplify the FMNR model and enhance its visibility.

2 Implementation arrangements

To implement this strategic plan, the FMNR Network will work through Tree Talk Plus which is the current Secretariat for the Network. It works through a Host Agreement, by which it is mandated to implement critical actions under this strategic plan. The FMNR Network has regional nodes through which it reaches out to the members. The Secretariat will hire an FMNR Coordinator, who will be tasked with the day-to-day running of the business of the network. The coordinator will be answerable to the Executive Director through the Program Manager. The Executive Director is a member of the Steering Committee, that oversees the running of the Network. The General Assembly is the overall governing body of the network and sits once every year.

3.1 FMNR Network Governance Structure

The FMNR Network has simple governance structures:

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) (held once a year) is the supreme governing body of the network and its programs and activities. The AGM elects the Steering Committee Members (7 in number, at least two must be women). These take leadership for and on behalf of the AGM. The network will also be coordinated through the regional nodes or regional chapters, that will coordinate FMNR activities within the regions. Currently, we have the Northern, Eastern, Central, Albertine Graben, West Nile, Karamoja sub-region and South Western Uganda. The nodes will play a crucial role in facilitating the implementation, coordination, and scaling up of FMNR practices in the regions. Their main responsibilities will be:

- Act as the central hub for all FMNRrelated activities within the region, ensuring alignment with national goals and strategies.
- Facilitating communication and collaboration between various stakeholders, including farmers, local communities, NGOs, government agencies, and international partners.
- iii. Developing and conducting training programs for farmers, community leaders, extension workers, and other stakeholders on FMNR techniques and benefits.
- iv. Establishing and maintaining

- demonstration sites to showcase successful FMNR practices and innovations.
- Collecting and compiling data on FMNR activities, progress, and impacts within the region.
- vi. Providing technical support and advisory services to farmers and communities implementing FMNR, including site visits and hands-on guidance.
- vii. Conducting awareness campaigns to educate the public, policymakers, and other stakeholders about the benefits of FMNR.
- viii. Developing and submitting funding proposals to national and international donors to secure financial resources for FMNR activities.
- ix. Mobilizing and engaging local communities in FMNR activities, ensuring their active participation and ownership.
- Developing platforms for sharing knowledge, such as online portals, newsletters, and community meetings.

The AGM appoints the Secretariat, the current Secretariat being Tree Talk Plus, and it is responsible for the smooth running of the FMNR Network. With the approval of the Steering Committee, the Secretariat recruits the FMNR Coordinator, who runs the business of the network, alongside mainstream Tree Talk Plus and reports to the Executive Director, Tree Talk Plus, the Secretariat. Together with the Executive Director, Tree Talk Plus, and with recommendations/approval of the Steering Committee, the programs of the Network get implemented.

Lastly, the Secretariat, hosts the Finance and Administration where there will be officials in charge of accounts, Public relations, and communications. This unit will spearhead business development services and the development of funding proposals (utilizing inputs from all other units of the secretariat). This unit will be the apex of resource mobilization. Under the Secretariat, there will be an M&E Unit to ensure the digitalization of all reporting within the FMNR Network.

3.2 Composition of the Network

The members of the Network shall be organizations,

representing stakeholders' interests in the following categories:

- a) Farmers' associations and/or groups (which include Village Savings and Loan Associations)
- b) Communal land owners/leaders/ associations,
- c) National Non-Government Organisations and Civil Society Organisations,
- d) International Non-Government Organizations
- e) Community-Based Organizations
- f) Cultural and/or traditional Institutions,
- g) Faith-based organizations,
- h) Public sector (Line Ministries, Departments, and Agencies)
- i) Universities and research organizations
- j) Private sector (Nature Based Enterprises, e.g. Bee-keeping, passion fruit growing and processing/value addition, etc.
- k) Financial institutions that support and promote agricultural lending/financing, carbon credit buyers, clean energy industries, etc;
- Media who help to disseminate messages about FMNR, interventions of the Network,
- m) Development partners,
- n) Individuals who promote and practice FMNR
- Any other category not mentioned above, that meets the criterion of becoming a member.

3.3 Recruitment of members/Member selection criteria

The following shall be considered while recruiting members.

- a) Similar mandate in natural resource management
- b) Clear vision, goal, mission, and objectives in line with the FMNR network
- c) Type of organization: National NGO, International NGO, CSO, CBO, Associations/groups, cultural Institutions, Faith Based Organizations, Collaborative Forest Management groups, natural resource users, social enterprises
- d) Consider a minimum of 2 years in operation capacity building

- e) Thematic areas At least one relating to the objective of the network
- f) Coverage: Area & population, individual, minimum of ½ acre
- g) Registration status with Uganda Registration Services Bureau, NGO Bureau, CBO registration certificate, UNFFE, and Uganda Tourism Board.
- h) The main source of income, which is key for the initial sustainability of the network.
- i) An individual who has land, practices FMNR, and promotes FMNR.

3.4 Roles of Members

Members of an FMNR network will play a crucial role in advocating for, implementing, and sustaining FMNR initiatives. Among other things, they will:

- a) Participate in activities related to FMNR in all aspects
- b) Allocate funds, integrate/mainstream/ promote FMNR
- c) Ensure the coordination of network activities,
- d) Participate in mobilizing additional resources for FMNR promotion

 Assist in the alignment of FMNR programs to national priorities and of the second priorities and the second priorities are second priorities and the second priorities and the second priorities are se

programs to national priorities and district development plans, sub-county, and parishlevel plans.

- f) Facilitate scaling up and documenting of successful innovations and sharing of success stories.
- g) Participate in FMNR communications to different target groups.
- h) Facilitate partnerships and networking amongst stakeholders.
- I) Identify and map out the highly degraded areas for FMNR interventions
- j) Lobby key line ministries to include FMNR in national and sub-national programs
- k) Participate in the commemoration of key international days and events relevant to FMNR.
- l) Monitor, evaluate, account for, and Learn from FMNR intervention.

By fulfilling these roles, FMNR network members will contribute to the promotion of sustainable land management, environmental conservation, and rural development, while improving the resilience

and livelihoods of communities across different landscapes in Uganda

3.5 Network Meetings

These will constitute the meeting:

- a) The steering committee responsible for overseeing the leadership and management of the network will meet regularly at least quarterly. The emergency meeting will be called if deemed fit;
- b) Representatives of members' organizations attending the Network meetings shall represent their organizations and not in their capacity. The forum shall decide the number and extent of representation of each member organization as deemed necessary.

- Affirmative action shall be taken to attract and retain representatives of special interest groups such as people with disabilities, women, youth, children, and elderly persons;
- c) The regional nodes will be overseeing the leadership and management of the network in the regional nodes and will meet regularly at least quarterly.
- An annual general meeting shall be held every year at a date determined by the steering committee;
- The outcome of the meetings will be made available to Members in the prescribed form;
- Details of the committee, membership, and issues regarding operations are contained in the constitution.

Risk management

The FMNR Network will aim to mitigate all risks that its implementation may face to ensure that it achieves the vision and mission of this strategic plan. This section highlights the anticipated implementation risks at operational, external, and strategic levels and the associated risk mitigation strategies. To assess the risk, this section highlights the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats matrix below. A critical analysis of the internal strengths and weaknesses and, the external opportunities and threats is an important step in strategic plan development. The sections below present key strengths and how to leverage them, the weaknesses and how to address them, the opportunities and how they can be exploited, and the threats such that strategies can be developed to mitigate them.

4.1 Anticipated implementation risks

4.1.1 Operational Risks

FMNR Network faces operational risks related to gaps in its human, technological, and financial resources. This is why one of the key aspects of this plan is to build the capacity of the network to

elevate its potential to manage and coordinate the implementation of this strategy.

4.1.2 Strategic risks

The FMNR Network has inspired other partners and member organizations to lobby for funds to do the same work it does. While this is a good development, it has put the FMNR Network at a strategic risk.

4.1.3 External risks

The political space for civil society in advocating for enhancement in service delivery is changing, and the funding of the forestry sector is dwindling.

Table 1: SWOT Analysis Matrix

Table 1: SWO1 Analysis Matrix	II
Strengths	How to leverage the strengths
The Network is a coalition of members	The network can leverage the technical expertise of several
who are experienced in natural resource	of the members to train new members and create new
management, climate change, and land	modules for existing members.
and water resources management.	
The Network is a democratic and	Leverage the goodwill of the Network to garner support
transparent entity that enhances its image	from the local and central government, development
and increases acceptability by key	partners, private sector, and other stakeholders for creating
stakeholders such as old and new	partnerships and mobilizing resources.
members, development partners, the	
private sector, local and central	
government	
Weaknesses	How to address the weaknesses
Weak financial resource base	Develop and implement a resource mobilization plan to
	raise resources through internal and external revenue
	generation and donor support.
Opportunities	How to exploit opportunities
An enabling policy environment provides	The Network will tap into the existing support policies
for 'promotion and supporting farm forestry	that mandate the local governments to "develop the capacity
to boost land productivity, increase farm	of NGOs, CBOs, and private sector as well as government
incomes, alleviate pressures on natural forests	agencies to provide FMNR advice and training".
and improve food security".	
The existence of support structures	Engage the existing structures to support the
including MDAs	implementation of the FMNR strategic plan
The Network's FMNR model is practical,	It addresses challenges of cost and any organization
affordable, and easy to replicate.	desiring to implement FMNR does not need high
	investment costs and can operate even on the smallest of
	budgets.
Threats	How to mitigate threats
There is limited research information that	The Network shall partner with academia and research
is documented and published on the	institutions to research the FMNR model
FMNR model to use as a tool for	
regeneration.	
The increasing population may render	The Network needs to partner with stakeholders to
FMNR difficult as most communities rely	promote renewable energy options to lessen the burden on
on wood or charcoal for energy	regenerating forests.
Under pure conservation, the regenerated	The Network needs to explore options for income and
forests may not have direct benefits to the	food-generating interventions that can be integrated into
households which may tempt them to cut	the forests.
the trees,	

4.2 Risk management

To ensure that the Strategic Plan is implemented successfully, the potential risks are identified, and the measures for mitigating the risks are developed as shown in the table below:

Table 4: Risk Management Framework

Risk Management Framework							
S/N	Risk Description	Probability	Impact	Mitigation Measures	Assumptions		
1	Failure to raise the resources required for implementation of the Plan.	Low	High	 Intensify resource mobilization. Leverage membership resources. Harmonize work plans with members for joint implementation 	Member organizations will provide seed funding for the network		
2	The FMNR Network is a loose coalition of multi- stakeholder organization	Medium	medium	Seek of legal recognition	URSB approves registration		
3	Competition from other Networks	Low	Medium	Maintain a reputable image regarding professionalism and transparency, visibility, branding, publications, and representation.	This is healthy competition		

5

Communication strategies

In undertaking FMNR as a land restoration technique that involves the systematic regeneration and management of trees and shrubs from living root systems, we need communication approaches for adoption and scaling. Effective communication strategies for FMNR models in Uganda should consider the local context, the target audience, and the resources available. Here is what this strategic plan intends to use:

- a) FMNR members will endeavor to communicate in the local languages spoken by the communities where FMNR is being implemented. This will ensure that the message is easily understood and acceptable by the community.
- b) The network will organize workshops or community meetings to educate the farmers and community members about the benefits and techniques of FMNR. These workshops should include practical demonstrations and hands-on training to increase understanding and adoption.
- c) As much as possible, and with resources

reming Usunda demonstration plots where FMNR techniques are implemented successfully. These plots will serve as tangible examples for farmers to see the benefits of FMNR firsthand and encourage farmers to visit these plots and learn from them.

- d) The Network will utilize visual aids such as posters, signposts, videos, flip charts, and instructional materials to illustrate the concepts and techniques of FMNR. Visual aids are particularly effective in areas with low literacy rates.
- e) The Network will facilitate the formation of peer learning networks where farmers who have successfully adopted FMNR share their experiences and knowledge with other farmers. Peer-to-peer learning can be very powerful in encouraging adoption.
- f) The Network will incorporate traditional knowledge and practices related to land management and tree conservation into FMNR messaging, highlighting how FMNR complements and enhances existing practices.

- g) The Network will collaborate with local leaders, cultural and religious leaders, including local councils, and elders, to promote FMNR within their communities. Local leaders often have significant influence and can help mobilize community members.
- h) The Network will customize communication messages to address the specific needs and concerns of different groups within the community, such as women, youth, children, and interest groups.
- i) The Network will recognize that behavior change takes time and therefore implement long-term engagement strategies that involve regular follow-up, monitoring, and support to ensure sustained adoption of FMNR practices.
- j) The Network will establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the impact of communication efforts on FMNR adoption rates and land restoration outcomes and use this data to refine communication strategies over time.

In executing the communication strategies, we will utilize the following communication channels:

- i. Where applicable, FMNR Network members will be invited to take part in radio and TV talk shows organized by fellow members who have resources to pay for airtime
- ii. National-level conferences and dialogue meetings
- iii. District and Urban Authorities level conferences and meetings
- iv. TV and Radio Talk shows
- v. Interactive website and social media platforms
- vi. Community meetings, breakfast, and dinner meetings;
- vii. Editorials and advertorials
- viii. Airtime from LGs and RDCs
- ix. Production and dissemination of FMNR Policy Briefs
 - a. Webinars and other online conferences and workshops
 - b. Visuals and graphics
 - c. Music, dance, and drama

Key messages that FMNR will continue to communicate include but are not limited to:

- i. uptake and adoption of FMNR model and practices,
- ii. a positive change in biodiversity by allowing indigenous trees to grow,
- iii. the need to focus on the sequestration of carbon and reduce the impacts of climate change and associated injustices,
- iv. Opportunities for livelihoods from FMNR practices,
- v. Women and the extremely vulnerable communities to get involved,
- vi. FMNR as an approach will flourish.
- vii. Showcasing of government and non-government FMNR action projects and programs.



Financingandresourcemobilisation

6.1 Financial resources

The FMNR Network is desirous of attaining financial independence. This will require attracting resources that build the capacity of FMNR Network to generate and mobilize its resources. The projected budget for the strategic plan will cover five years broken down every year. The budget will be implemented through annual work plans and budgets as well as through quarterly work plans and budgets. The 5-year indicative budget is UGX 3.46 billion the details of which are in Table 3.

Table 1: Cost of the Strategic Areas of the Plan

Costing by Strategic Areas: Strategic Plan 2024 - 2028 (UGX 000)								
S/N	STRATEGIC AREA	2024	2025	2026	2,027	2,028	TOTAL	
1	Strategic Area 1: To influence the government to adopt the FMNR model.	85,000	100,000	95,000	95,000	95,000	470,000	
2	Strategic Area 2: To improve biodiversity conservation through FMNR	140,000	100,000	200,000	150,000	150,000	740,000	
3	Strategic Area 3: To promote environmental sustainability and Climate Justice through FMNR	71,000	143,600	120,600	200,600	155,600	691,400	
4	Strategic Area 4: Amplifying the citizen's voice and participation in FMNR.	100,000	150,000	250,000	500,000	600,000	1,600,000	
5	Strategic Area 5: FMNR is inclusive and gender-responsive	58,000	200,000	242,000	200,000	150,000	850,000	
6	Strategic Area 6: To enhance the institutional governance of the FMNR network in Uganda (including the node)	92,000	94,000	120,000	170,000	242,000	718,000	
	TOTAL	446,000	637,600	777,600	815,600	792,600	3,469,400	

6.2 Estimated Revenue

This section demonstrates the anticipated revenue that will be earned by the Network from several sources in the five years FMNR

FMNR Network Income Projection 2024-2028 (UGX 000)									
S/N	Source of income	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	TOTAL		
I	Membership and annual subscriptions	6,000	9,000	9,000	10,000	12,000	46,000		
2	Donations through concepts and proposals	200,000	500,000	500,000	600,000	500,000	2,300,000		
3	Commissions from market/value chain developments	0	0	10,000	20,000	50,000	80,000		
4	Sale of Forest Foods from the stall	-	0	10,000	15,000	30,000	55,000		
5	Consultancy services	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	50,000		
6	Contributions from members	100,000	100,000	100,000	120,000	150,000	570,000		
	TOTAL	306,000	619,000	639,000	775,000	762,000	3,101,000		

6.3 Resource Mobilization Strategy

The FMNR Network has a Resources Mobilization Strategy that aims to:

- 1. deepening the area of technical expertise in FMNR; seeing beyond the current scope of understanding as it is among foresters, agroforestry practitioners, ecologists, or even conservationists;
- Broadening the geographic scope/area; to operate in a wider area than managing FMNR demonstration plots or sites, to reach out to the regions and landscapes, looking at disparities in FMNR ideologies and practices;
- 3. developing expertise in a new program area (climate change, income generating activities, trees on farm and farming systems, animal rearing and trees, private sector interventions in tree resource maintenance, the linkage between trees growing and regeneration); and
- replicating or expanding a promising model or approach like silvi-pastoralism, or commercial agriculture.

The FMNR Resource Mobilisation Strategy is framed around four pillars:

- Pillar 1: planning, budgeting, monitoring, and evaluation: The FMNR secretariat shall strengthen its planning, budgeting, and financial management systems in a manner that will maximize the resource absorptive capacity and optimally utilize resources for FMNR programs.
- Pillar 2: capacity for resource mobilization: The Steering Committee shall establish a Resource Mobilization Committee with a mandate to support the process necessary to implement resource mobilization activities and oversee the secretariat's efforts in obtaining resources
- Pillar 3: broadening the resource channels: The FMNR Network shall broaden the scope by looking at alternative approaches to resource mobilization consistent with its development agenda.
- Pillar 4: framework of dialogue with cooperating partners/stakeholders: The secretariat will ensure effective and efficient coordination of the dialogue with partners such as ENRCSOs, RECSO, CAN-U, UFWG, NGOs like World Vision, ECO, CARE, etc, to work together in promoting and keeping FMNR.

Monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning framework

7.1 Implementation arrangements:

It can be expected that developing networking relationships is not an event but a process. The people and organizations involved have to build confidence and trust in each other to agree on common strategic direction and objectives. The FMNR network has planned for interventions that will bring people together to enhance trust and harmony. The network will benchmark with other existing and successful networks and benefit from their experiences.

The implementation of the FMNR network strategy will be coordinated by the network through the designated coordinator of the network with the support of member organizations. The operations will be interlinked working relationships between the networking coordinating office, the members, and

the partners. The coordinating office will facilitate the linkage of different categories of stakeholders for harmony and mutual benefit. Member organizations will be able to relate with one another, and with other stakeholders but also be able to hold joint events.

The coordination will be supported by a steering committee which shall be elected by an Annual General Meeting. The general meeting will be held at such times as will be specified in the constitution. The coordinating office will be hosted by Tree Talk Plus to ensure appropriate program and financial accountability to stakeholders.

7.2 Monitoring and Evaluation:

The network will be committed to monitoring and evaluation both as a tool for accountability and as a

tool for learning and will keep open communication with stakeholders. Evaluation processes will be facilitated at specific intervals throughout the 5year implementation period.

7.2.1 Quarterly reports

The Network Secretariat shall prepare and submit a Quarterly Report on the progress of implementation (against the agreed indicators provided below) to the Steering Committee. The Report shall include an explanation for any variance between the targets and actual performance.

7.2.2 Annual Reviews:

An annual review of the progress of implementation of the Plan will be carried out by the Secretariat. The results of the review will be presented to the steering committee. The Annual Review Report and the minutes of the meetings of the Steering Committee

will be presented at the AGM with recommendations. The AGM will review recommendations and provide the necessary guidance.

7.2.3 Mid-Term Review and End of Strategic Plan Review

A comprehensive Mid-Term Review shall be carried out during the third year of implementation (2026). The review will be carried out by an external consultant to assess the performance concerning the significant changes in the external and internal environment that may have influenced the implementation and propose changes in strategy or targets as necessary. The Secretariat will present the Mid-Term Evaluation Report to the Steering Committee members. The Report with the comments and recommendations of the committee will then be presented to the AGM for further guidance. An End of Strategic Plan Review will be conducted as part of the development of the next strategic plan and the findings will guide the development of the new plan.



The Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration Network - Uganda

FMNR Network Uganda (Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration) is a movement that focuses on environmental restoration and sustainable agricultural practices in Uganda. The network promotes the adoption of FMNR, a low-cost and effective technique for regenerating trees and shrubs on degraded farmland and grazing lands. This technique involves selecting and protecting naturally occurring trees and shrubs rather than planting new ones, which helps restore the land, improve soil fertility, and increase biodiversity.

The FMNR Network Uganda works with farmers, communities, and various stakeholders to create awareness, provide training, and support the implementation of FMNR practices. The network aims to enhance food security, increase resilience to climate change, and improve livelihoods by promoting sustainable land management practices. FMNR Network Uganda also advocates for policy changes and collaborates with governmental and non-governmental organizations to scale up the adoption of FMNR practices across the country. The network is part of a larger global movement promoting FMNR, with similar initiatives in other countries aimed at land degradation, and climate change.

Tree Talk Plus is the host of the FMNR network in Uganda. Tree Talk Plus works towards shaping the minds and attitudes of communities for improved land-use practices, building resilience towards climate change improving the lives of ordinary people.



"Empowering Communities"

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