1. Introduction and justification

World Wide Fund for Nature – Uganda Country Office (WWF-UCO) works with different local governments, central government agencies, private sector, civil society organizations and local communities to implement conservation initiatives aimed at enhancing community livelihoods and protection of high conservation value areas. Since 2005, WWF UCO adopted Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) as one of the approaches to reduce the current and future drivers of degradation and loss of high conservation value forests. To date, WWF UCO has learnt a number of lessons among which is the need to promote “Sustainable wood value chain model” where market and private sector approaches sustain FLR efforts. Markets form an important component of the “Sustainable wood value chain model” they catalyze productivity, quality production and significant returns to communities. This in the long term has the potential to enhance sustainable networks of the stakeholders along value chain creating employment and improving livelihoods. This is envisaged to catalyse sustainable tree planting and production of bankable raw materials for the market and value chain. The budding wood-value Cooperatives if supported have a potential to form a nucleus for a sustainable wood value-chain model in Virunga landscape and a potential to a medium sized processor making Ply/MDF/OSB to put a “floor in the market” i.e. a stable price and a stable demand for raw materials. Thus, this proposal aims at creating linkages between private sector and and Forest landscape restoration through making a business case for sustainable Wood value-chain Model for Virunga Landscape.

2. Overall objective:
The overall objective is to Strengthening wood-value chain cooperatives to accelerate FLR and private sector linkages in GVL

2.1. Specific objectives/ major interventions
i. Develop FLR bankable proposal for GVL to catalyse restoration and développement of sustainable wood value-chain in the Virunga Landscape
ii. Develop the video documentary and pitches on the pathway and role of wood value-chain cooperatives towards sustainable wood value-chain in Virunga Landscape.
iii. Strengthen financial sustainability of District FLR cooperatives through initiatives such as Revolving fund and linkages to microfinance credit facilities. (Note : Tree growing is not yet acceptable as Loan Security in conventional banks)

2.2. Target beneficiaries
• Atleast 2 Private sector investors attracted to GVL
• 5 District level timber wood-value chain cooperatives – Kasese, Rukungiri, Rubirizi, Mitooma, Kisoro (600 members/households) scale up their FLR by 20%
• Atleast 2 Network offices buy into the business case pitches and disseminate them