



UTGA NEWS
From Nursery to Sawmill, to market

3rd December 2018 No.54

MUBENDE GROWERS CLUSTER MEETING



Participants at the Mubende Cluster meeting listen to a UTGA presentation.

UTGA held a cluster development meeting for the Mubende Cluster on the 28th and 29th November 2018. The two day event commenced with a field day at the Kirunguwa plantation of Dr Geoffrey Bahigwa and a half day meeting the next day at the Trade Traveler's Hotel, Mubende.

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01st June 2018 No.52

Pines & Musizi most affected TREE DEATHS!



Over the past months, UTGA received reports from several growers that their trees were dying up and dying. Complaints were received from the areas of Mubende, Kiboga, Nakaseke, Nakasekonge, Iswera and Kiboga among others. The complaints were mostly received during the early months of the year mostly in the dry season but some went into the rainy season. UTGA being a key member raised this as a contentious matter to the Commercial Forestry Research and Training (COMFORT) working platform as a key issue for discussion in their previous meeting with the aim of finding quick remedies to the problem. Some key highlights on the possible causes of the dying were highlighted by NAFORRI. These included: Pine Wilt Disease, Drought, relatively long dry spells, Site-species matching issues, Soil properties including clay hard pans, shallow soils, gravel, underlying rocks, Wetlands etc., Nematodes, Fungal infections and Pests and Untimely silvicultural operations leading to competition and tree stress. Resulting from the COMFORT meeting, SPGS/FAO agreed to work closely with UTGA and NAFORRI to conduct a quick field assessment of the extent and likely cause of the problem.

Field assessments

A team consisting of the SPGS Technical Advisor, a Pest and Disease Specialist from NAFORRI and the UTGA Program Officer conducted the assessment. A total of five plantations were sampled and visited in Mubende, Kiboga, Nakaseke and Nakasekonge with the aim of:

- Identifying any trends of the problem
- Ruling out the likely causes of the dying
- Monitoring signs & symptoms of pest and disease presence
- Advising growers on the quick remedies to the problem.

Findings

From the field visits and interviews with growers, they seemed to be:

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23rd January 2018 No.51

UTGA pursues FSC Group certification



Michael Drink from CMO shares information during an FSC gap analysis field occasion in Mubende.

UTGA embarked on the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Stewardship Council (PSC) group certification starting off with a small pilot group of six members from the Mubende cluster. The group members have chosen to lead the process. UTGA is working towards attaining the certificate by the end of 2018. The strategy is to start small but the ultimate aim is to have very UTGA member plantation FSC certified. This is quite achievable, realistic, filled with commitment and optimism of both the forest owners and the

Why Cape Town Run Out of Water

KAMPALA IS NEXT!

The South African city world facing a future with too that shut off the taps to its water. There are several 4 million people re- causes of the water shortage. cally Capetown is just one. Population growing faster of many cities around the

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12th October 2018 No.53

Tallest & Largest



Californian's coast redwoods (Sequoia sempervirens) stand out as some of the most impressive organisms on the planet. One of three members of the sequoia/redwood family of cypress trees, the coast redwoods and their cousins, the giant sequoias (Sequoiadendron giganteum), hold the records for tallest and largest trees in the world, respectively.

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Vision

To be the leading commercial forestry actor in Uganda

Mission

To support efficient, high quality and profitable commercial forestry investments that represents members' interests through collective effort.

Core Values

UTGA endeavours to uphold and live by the following set of values and principles

1. Honesty: We are open and truthful in whatever we do and we condemn all forms of dishonesty
2. Accountability: We hold our selves accountable to the highest level of ethical behaviour and responsibility for our actions, while maintaining integrity in our performance.
3. Mutual Respect: We respect each other's views and contributions cognizant of the fact that each individual is endowed with different and unique capabilities which are useful to the attainment of the Associations' objectives.
4. Gender Equality and Diversity: In fulfilling our mission we treat men and women equally with fairness and acknowledge, respect and celebrate the diversity within our membership.
5. Participation: We appreciate each other's participation and encourage all the members to actively participate in the affairs of the Association.
6. Value for quality: We stand for the best standards and practices in commercial forestry

Strategic Objectives

SO1: To improve the image of the Association through awareness creation and advocacy campaigns

SO2: Generate and disseminate cutting edge information and knowledge on commercial forestry and best practices

SO3: Increase competitiveness of commercial forestry

SO4: Attract and engage strategic partnerships

SO5: Enhance institutional sustainability of UTGA

UTGA Activities

- i. Offer member discounts on farm inputs, improved seed, seedlings, chemicals and other forestry inputs. Centralized purchase of specialist forestry equipment/tools
- ii. Support lobbying & advocacy on the critical issues affecting commercial forestry investments.
- iii. Develop centralized market development initiatives and collective bargaining.
- iv. Offer professional advice and services from a team of experienced Technical Advisors (TA).
- v. Share relevant information through regular newsletters, the UTGA Website and other platforms.
- vi. Organizing network platforms with other growers at regular forest days in each cluster & benefit from the information sharing and collaboration.
- vii. Being a voice to direct research and training needs;
- viii. Offer benefits of being part of an organized group
- ix. Ensuring that grower enjoy incentives of private sector forestry investments.

A WORD FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Tree growers are at the heart of the commercial forestry sector and UTGA is committed to representing and supporting them and advancing their cause. By working with partners including state and non-state actors to create a robust industry, it's important to demonstrate the importance and benefits of forestry to society. UTGA members range in size and scope from independent family farms to large companies and are key enablers of action, performance and growth for Uganda's forestry.

UTGA has a responsibility to work closely with partners in government and industry to support and be the leading commercial forestry actor in Uganda. We are committed to support efficient, high quality and profitable commercial forestry investments that represent members' interests through collective effort.

There are fundamental interlinkages that exist between forests and people which calls for the right balance in actions, investments and partnerships directed towards food security, poverty alleviation, and ecological conservation which ultimately lead to sustainable development.

Forests and trees make vital contributions to life, supporting livelihoods, providing clean air & water, conserving biodiversity and working to mitigate climate change. Forests are a source of food, medicine and fuel for more than a billion people and hold more than three quarters of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. They provide products and services to millions of people especially the needy and contribute to their socio-economic development.

Mobilising growers to fully engage in a long term initiative such as commercial forestry still requires huge efforts and a bounty of creativity. Many get apathy along the way especially if they have to dip into their pockets to carry out activities in their plantations.

Public awareness and all forms of deliberate to information dissemination like this newsletter compilation can only help to enlighten the general public about the need and importance of growing trees and the looming catastrophe of forest degradation and deforestation.



As the industry grows and the trees come of age, there is need for skills development in lower areas of the value chain. UTGA will continue to lobby for formality, order and regulatory support for investment and the requisite infrastructure around plantation clusters.



High quality F2 Pinus Caribaea Seedlings at the UTGA Nursery. The seed was sourced from Australia. The Nursery is located at Buwalula, 36km on the Kampala – Mityana Road.

FAO/SPGS III PROJECT BOLSTERING COMMERCIAL FORESTRY SECTOR IN UGANDA

A unique and highly beneficial intervention, the Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS) III Project continues to make progress in enhancing the commercial forestry in Uganda. SPGS III is a project of the Government of Uganda, funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Project offers financial and technical support as well as inputs to commercial tree growers and community groups, to establish forest plantations and woodlots, targeting about 32 000 hectares (ha) by 2020. SPGS III operates a retrospective grant payment model by which growers use their own capital to plant the trees and receive the grant upon satisfactory compliance with required standards. So far, about 500 private companies and individuals have received grants while about 15 institutions have received support to plant about 300ha equivalent to about 360,000 seedlings. Additionally, 100 rural communities throughout Uganda have received about one million seedlings to establish 2 000 hectares.

To enhance establishment of quality forest plantations, FAO, working with the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), through SPGS III, is implementing voluntary certification of tree nurseries and forest plantation contractors as key service providers. Certification is vital because many investors in commercial forestry in Uganda have limited skills in operations related to forest plantation establishment and maintenance. The Project offers training and recommends acceptable standards to nursery operators and contractors, who thereafter receive one-year rating-based certification, which empowers them to guarantee customer satisfaction. By July 2018, about 92 private nurseries had received certification, up from 66 nurseries in 2017. This increase in interest and performance is a positive

indicator of the relevance that private sector players attribute to providing quality planting material and forestry services to support a vibrant sector.

There has also been an increase in the number of certified contractors; from 14 at the start of the Project in 2016/2017 to 23 in 2018/2019. This increase reflects the importance that forest contractors attach to certification, with the latter helping to enhance tree growers confidence in forest contracting as a viable service for establishing and maintaining quality forest plantations.



©FAO Francis Ssali (front left in orange vest) demonstrates good nursery management practices during a field tour for FAO-SPGS III grantees.

For the next two years of the Project, FAO/SPGS III will focus on implementation of downstream processing, which, according to the Project Coordinator- Leonidas Hitimana, is a critical stage in the sustainability of the forest value chain. The project will support the procurement of semi-permanent sawmills which will reduce wood wastage during processing, increase recovery and increase production thereby meeting the demand for quality wood. The mills will be accessible to growers all over Uganda in the different clusters where SPGS III supports commercial forestry.

The project will further support development of suitable models for implementing and financing downstream processing and utilization, conduct a local and regional timber market study to guide timber growers and traders as well as support

development of a wood waste management strategy appropriate for Uganda.

The Project will continue carrying out training in various areas including: Nursery Management, Pest and Disease Control and Harvesting. The training aims at equipping growers with knowledge and skills to conduct effective forest management practices.

EU envoys commend commercial tree growers, FAO/SPGS III Project

Ambassadors of European Union (EU) countries, represented in Uganda, have commended the Government of Uganda and private investors, for engaging in commercial tree planting to help mitigate climate change and foster sustainable development. The envoys, from Germany, France, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Netherlands

FAO, through the SPGS III Project, also has collaborations with the Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA) National Forestry Resources Research Institute (NaFORRI) and Nyabyeya Forestry College to enhance support to commercial growers, advance research in forestry and contribute to skills development in the sector, respectively.

and Norway were on a tour of Global Woods AG Limited's forest plantation in Kikonda Central Forest Reserve, Kyankwanzi District in November 2018. Global-woods AG is one of over 500 private sector investors that have received financial and technical grants from the SPGS Phase III Project. The ambassadors were on a four-day retreat in Hoima District to appraise developments in environment, oil and sustainability sectors in Uganda, which the EU is supporting.



©EU in Uganda French Ambassador to Uganda- Stephanie Rivoal (right), William Carlos- Irish Ambassador to Uganda (second right) listen to Barnabas Vroegop (left), the Manager- Harvesting, Processing and Sales at Global Woods

EU Ambassador to Uganda, Attilio Pacifici, commended companies like Global-woods AG for effectively using the grants to generate money and employ more people while adding value to products from their planted forests, such as

sawlogs and poles. He further expressed optimism at the success of the Project, which is currently supporting tree growers, community groups and institutions in Uganda to plant trees.

23rd January 2018 No.51



Michal Brink from CMO shares information during an FSC gap analysis field excursion in Mubende

UTGA pursues FSC Group certification

UTGA embarked on the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC™) group certification starting off with a small pilot group of six members from the Mubende cluster “the guinea pigs” have chosen to lead the path. Although the process staggered a bit since the start in 2016, it is now revitalized and a road-map has been developed to guide the process. UTGA is working towards attaining the certificate by the end of 2018. The strategy is to start small but the ultimate aim is to have very UTGA member plantation FSC certified. This is quite achievable, realistic, filled with commitment and optimism of both the forest owners and the

Why Cape Town Run Out of Water

KAMPALA IS NEXT!



The South African city world facing a future with too little water. There are several likely causes of the water shortage. Population growing faster than 4 million people recently. Capetown is just one of many cities around the

UTGA group certification

group manager (UTGA), we'll definitely get there sooner. The group certification process allows for the extension of scope by adding new plantation units that meet the certification requirements from time to time.

To start with, a couple of follow up meetings have been held to revitalize the process and recently with support and facilitation from FSC Africa, UTGA conducted an in-field technical gap analysis of forest management activities and a group certification training. This also attracted a couple of prospective growers who it is hoped will be the next in line during the extension of scope. The technical analysis in the field was aimed at identifying loopholes and recommend strategies to put them right in preparation for the main assessment. The training was attended by UTGA staff, group members (forest owners and their plantation managers), four prospective tree growers and a representative from the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA). The trainees acquired knowledge on general forestry management, the ten principals and criteria of FSC and were also introduced to the draft FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) for Uganda, which we expect to use for the audits.

Why FSC certification is important to UTGA

It's not uncommon that as the journey to certification begins, many tend to compare the benefits of forest certification to the required dedication and investment. To start with, FSC certification is hinged on the notion of "responsible forestry management" which emphasizes the establishment and management of forests that are;

- Socially beneficial
- Environmentally appropriate and
- Economically viable

The benefits

As we focus on the future of forestry in Uganda at all scales, some of the outstanding challenges are in



WATER CRISIS: Kampala may follow Cape Town

storage.

Since 1995 the city's population has grown 79%, from about 2.4 million to an expected 4.3 million in 2018. Over the same period dam storage has increased by only 15%.

The Berg River Dam, which began storing water in 2007, has been Cape Town's only significant addition to water storage infrastructure since 1995. It's 130,000 megalitre capacity is over 14% of the 898,000 megalitres that can be held in Cape Town's large dams. Had it not been for good water consumption management by the City, the crisis could have hit much earlier.

High consumption preceding current drought

Cape Town is in the middle of a drought. In 2015 there was a spike in the amount of water treated. This suggests that consumption went up in that year, coupled with the onset of below average rainfall.

Human-caused global warming

Experts say rainfall to the city's catchment areas is coming later, dropping more erratically, and often missing the catchments altogether. "We have to acknowledge that carbon dioxide is finding its way into the atmosphere and has reached a new high. This is a global system, so the bigger systems are beginning to impact us. There is no doubt that pressure and temperature are related. Disturb the temperature, you disturb the pressure and you start to see different systems operating. The current water crisis is not a temporary phenomenon that will resolve in a year or two. It's a long-term problem. Substantial government intervention to make Cape Town's water supply sustainable is required.

Four million people in Cape Town, one of Africa's

Approximately 41 million trees are cut down every day—far faster than we are currently replanting them. The consequences of deforestation and other types of land degradation are severe, exacerbating climate change, biodiversity loss, and declines in ecosystem services that hundreds of millions of people depend on. In response, governments around the world have committed to restore 160 million hectares, an area larger than South Africa. But it will take more than government action to execute on these commitments; the private sector has an important role to play, too. In fact, these commitments are spurring increased demand for companies that can deliver large projects cost-effectively. Restoring degraded land has the potential to become a big business opportunity, on top of providing much needed climate mitigation and other ecosystem benefits. Established companies and entrepreneurs alike are finding new ways to make money from sustainably

THE BUSINESS OF PLANTING TREES

A Growing Investment Opportunity

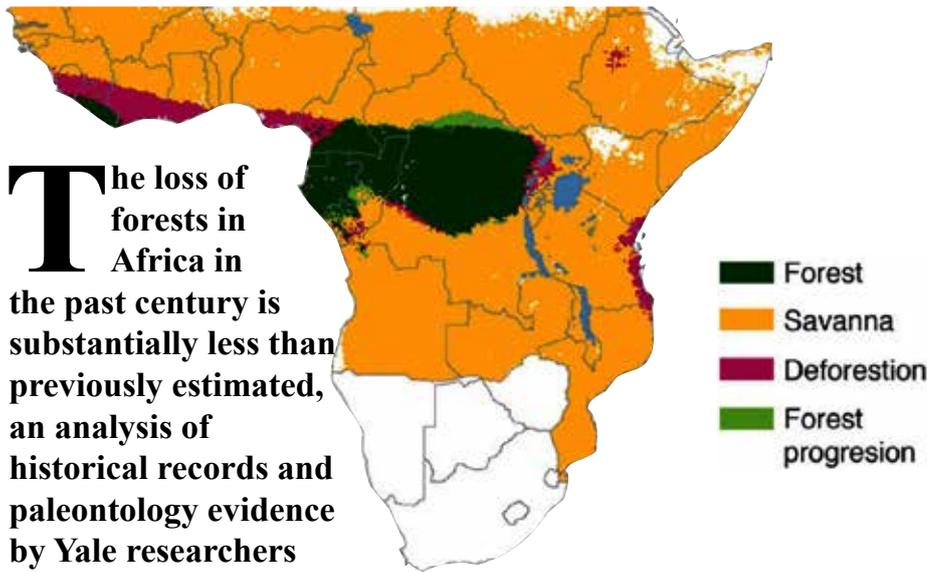


Eucalyptus plantation on degraded area in Mubende

managed forests and farms. Some are responding to governmental incentives; others are responding directly to the market, restoring land to generate new products and services, or to differentiate their offerings from the competition. Some entrepreneurs are betting that a huge new business opportunity for natural carbon sequestration will emerge as more governments charge a fee for emissions driving climate change. New research by The Nature Conservancy, World Resources Institute and other partners shows that restoration and other land management improvements could provide more than a third of the emissions reductions necessary to keep global warming under 2°C. Yet hurdles remain, and one of the biggest is funding. Many investors still know little about restoration opportunities. The report is intended to bridge that

information gap; it includes case studies of 14 innovative enterprises across eight countries. They cover a fascinating range of activities, from drones that shoot seeds into hardened soils to genetic research on tree species threatened with extinction. The restoration economy is at the take-off stage. New business models are emerging, technology is advancing and governments are showing political will. This is great news for investors looking for the next growth opportunity. And this is good news for the planet, since restoring land can provide clean water, improve livelihoods and enhance biodiversity, all while pulling back to the earth excess atmospheric carbon dioxide that would otherwise lead to heating up the planet. Opportunities have never been greater and the task has never been more urgent. As an ancient Chinese proverb says, “The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now.” *Article adopted from The Nature Conservancy*

African deforestation not as great as feared



The loss of forests in Africa in the past century is substantially less than previously estimated, an analysis of historical records and paleontology evidence by Yale researchers shows.

Previous estimates put deforestation at 35% to 55% on the continent since 1900. The new analysis estimates closed-canopy forests have shrunk by 21.7%, according to findings published Dec. 11 in the journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*. However, research also shows that some West and East African forests have been reduced between 80% and 90%.

Earlier surveys incorrectly labelled ancient savannas as newly deforested regions, said A. Carla Staver, assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and senior author of the study. The new analysis should help focus conservation efforts in Africa, she said.

“There is a global effort to increase the number of trees that can trap carbon,” Staver said. “In Africa, it would make the most sense to focus these efforts in areas that have truly been deforested rather than in areas which have long been savannas.”

Staver and former Yale postdoc Julie C. Aleman, now at the University of Montreal, used traditional sources such as early 20th-century European maps to estimate the extent of African forests in 1900.

But the team also cross-checked the documents with paleontological re-

ords including pollen, leaf parts known as phytoliths, and charcoal preserved in lake sediment and soil -- to reconstruct the historical ecology of tropical regions of Africa.

The single greatest contributor to continental deforestation was conversion of forests in West African countries including Ghana and Sierra Leone. However, the team also found that forests had actually expanded in Central African countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic.

“As conservationists, it is easy to look at this study as good news that deforestation isn’t as bad as we thought,” Staver said. “The bad news is that central African forests have been spared because violent conflicts have prevented economic development, at the costs of human lives and livelihoods.”

**UTGA ANNUAL
GENERAL MEET-
ING 2018 will take
place on Thursday
22/03/18 at City
Royal Resort Hotel**

NOTICE

ANNUAL FEES

UTGA Members with unpaid subscription fees are reminded to send them by CASH/CHEQUE to the UTGA office, Mobile money to 0785343564 or 0703343565 or you if you can make a bank deposit - please call the office

NEXT PLANTING

The next planting season is not far away!

Preparations for planting:-

- Clearing of land
 - Burning the rubbish
 - Booking for seedlings
- UTGA recommends the use of certified contractors (*List available on demand*).

UTGA has information on external suppliers for chemicals, herbicides and tools

NURSERY INFORMATION

UTGA currently has various seedlings which are ready for planting for this March-May rains and these are:-

1. Pinus caribaea seedlings
2. E.grandis seedlings
3. Clones (GU'S and GC'S)
4. Musizi seedlings
5. Melia seedlings
6. Gmelina seedlings

We therefore inform all utga members and non members to make orders/bookings with us in advance for proper planning to avoid inconveniences before the rains start.

UTGA group certification



Annah Agasha from FSC East Africa and Michal Brink from CMO listen to Richard Bakojja a UTGA farmer in the group scheme

marketing, value addition, processing and expansion of our forest establishments. This we may not be able to do on our own and therefore compare with countries with more developed forestry industry around the world, FSC certification provides an outstanding point to create and support cases for mobilization of support for the success against the stated challenges. Our cooperate members, the “big companies” “saw the light” long ago. We currently have three of them already certified and probably already enjoying the benefits. The small growers ought to emulate them since they are in the same market with the same challenges.

- FSC certification provides a good case in the mobilization of external funding and technical support to tree growers who are committed to responsible forest management. It acts as an incentive to access subsidies like grants from NGOs and government which are the direct answers to the current challenges facing the commercial forestry sector today.
- Immediate change in the management of forests, reduction of risks in the investments, change of attitudes and improvement in compliances on a whole. This will directly result in reduction in costs of production, value for money and a greater return on investment.
- Certification requirements improve

forest owner’s public image and provide tremendous improvements in interactions with forest neighbors. This results into direct benefits like reduction of fire risks and actual occurrence among other community challenges.

To page 7

SEEDLINGS FROM FERDSULT ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD

Quality seedlings are now available at very attractive prices:

Pine seedlings (Caribae-Brazil) @ 420/= Clonal Eucalyptus seedlings @ 500/=

Seedlings of grafted oranges @ 1,800/= Seedlings of grafted mangoes @ 2,000/=

The nurseries are located 8 kilometers off Jinja road in Luwombo-Lugazi Buikwe District.
For more information and booking please visit our office: Plot 17/19 Kampala Road,
7th & 8th floors, Diamond Trust Building
or contact:
Project Manager on tel: 0772 474431/0701 474431

FERDSULT
ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD
(Always Innovating)

Discovering New Potential

The Lightwood of Indigenous Tree Species

There is a forestry mission by Fairventures Worldwide in Uganda. It involves introducing a new wood product in the country.

Lightwood is already known in the global caravan, airplane, automobile and boat industry. It's a material that has its benefits.

It's weight saving, strong enough, reduces the process costs and there is a global demand. At the moment in Uganda most of the lightwood is used for producing charcoal. The potential of this material is totally undervalued and the global demand has not been considered since there is a ban on exporting raw timber.

So why indigenous lightwood species

- Fast growing -> short rotation times
- Entering synergies with other materials and create value addition
- Reducing process costs
- Reaching new markets by engaging in the global market
- Reducing deforestation by creating a new supply
- Cost efficient
- Flexible

How will Ugandan forestry get connected to the global Lightwood industry?

Fairventures Worldwide is an international working company interested in creating and supporting forest industries. They connect global and specific knowledge of the sector. Cooperating with the European import promotion, Fairventures wants to create new sustainable global supplies.



Blended GLULAM made out of lightwood in Indonesia

In Europe, the wood construction sector is well established. The construction details are getting better. That allows to build already

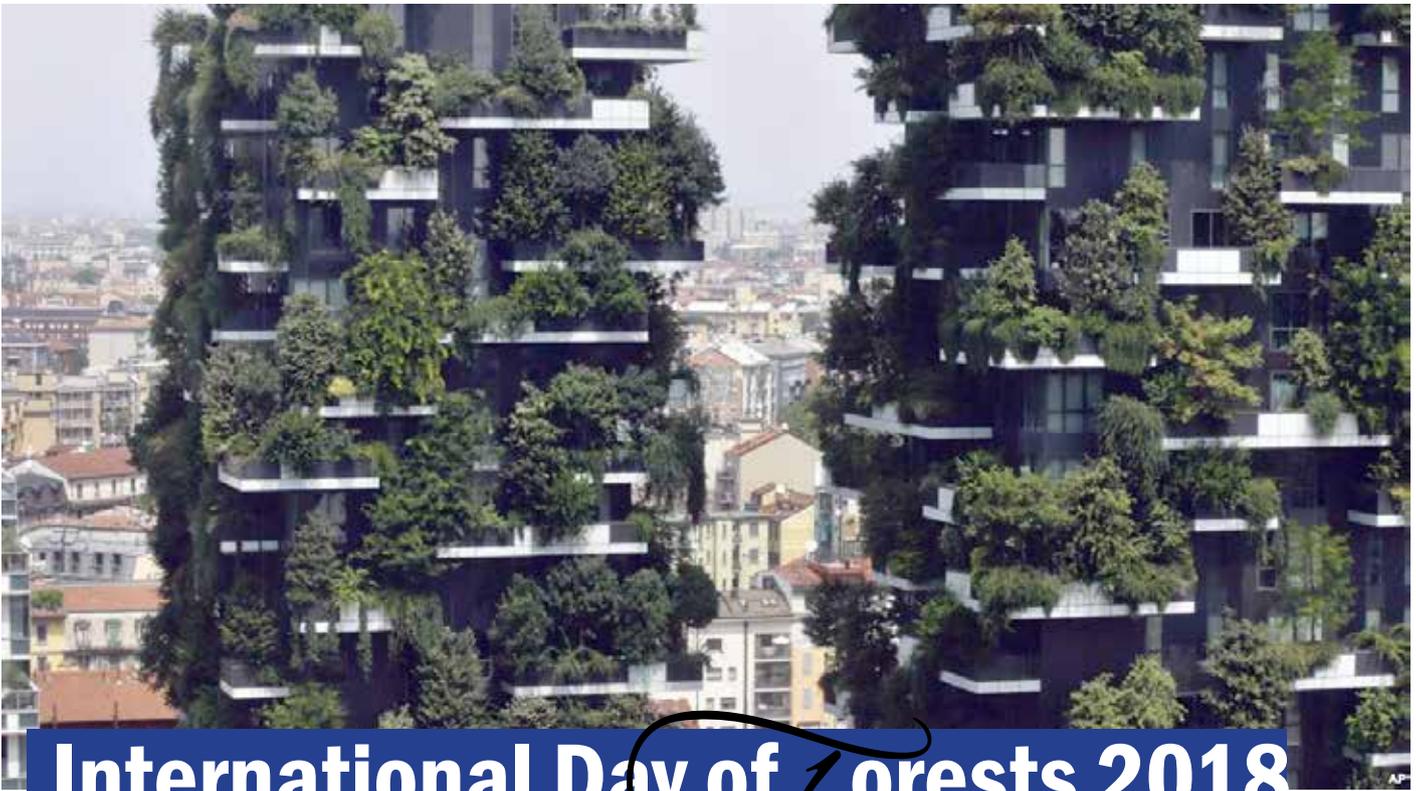
towers, which are more than 80 meters high. Out of wood! (HoHo Tower in Vienna - www.hoho-wien.at/en). Wood is not just sustainable, it is ready for the market to compete and synergy with concrete and steel. Synergy means, the construction can benefit from the special properties of concrete and wood.

As seen in the photos above, the first Glued-Laminated-Timber (GLULAM) are currently in development. These Beams are made out of lightwood. The relation between the density and the properties of lightwood is the perfect basis for developing new innovative products and enhance the value of the finished products. With the usage of lightweight-construction, the companies can save process-costs, the buildup of a house is much faster and the petrol-costs for the whole transportation are much lower. Beside this, Lightwood is a really good isolator concerning the climate.

After establishing successfully, the lightwood idea, exports and technology in Indonesia with the 1MTrees project (<https://fairventures.org/en/worldwide/1mtrees-borneo/>), the next steps are coming to Uganda.

If you are interested in value addition of your Timber and the possibility to enter the global lightwood market get in contact with Fairventures in Uganda.

Article from vinzenz.held@fairventures.org



International Day of Forests 2018

More people live in cities than ever before and by 2050, 6 billion people or as much as 70% of the global population is expected to live in urban areas. There will also be a doubling of global urban infrastructure which if not handled well may result in polluted urban sprawl. Trees and urban forests can make our cities greener, healthier and happier places to live for current and future

Forests and sustainable cities

generations. They do this by cooling the air by between 2 and 8 degrees, filtering out harmful pollutants and mitigating the effects of climate change by being carbon sinks. People need to live in harmony with nature. Join UTGA to celebrate the Annual day of forests 2018.

UTGA group certification

- The certification process puts in place procedures and tools for monitoring and evaluating forest operations and products which directly translates into increased operational efficiency in all management practices hence reduction of all the related costs.
- Insurance companies prefer to provide assurance for more sustainably managed forests.
- Reduction of accidents through improved safety.
- Price premiums and in-



creased sales among many other benefits. At UTGA, responsible forest management is a core value/belief and we stand to be exemplary in all our forest management practices. Growers need to manage forests in a socially, environmentally and economi-

cally sound manner. Acknowledgements go to the FSC East Africa Project Manager Ms. Annah Agasha, Michal Brink the CEO of CMO and his colleagues Steve Nsiita and Ruddolph Hoffman for efforts to the success of these two activities and their ongoing sup-

WATER CRISIS: Kampala may follow Cape Town



most affluent metropolises stood in lines surrounded by armed guards to collect rations of the region's most precious commodity: drinking water.

Population growth and a record drought, perhaps exacerbated by climate change sparked one of the world's most dramatic urban water crises, and South African leaders warned that residents are increasingly likely to face "Day Zero." The day, projected for mid-April, when the city may be forced to shut off taps to homes and businesses because reservoirs have gotten perilously low a possibility officials consider almost inevitable.

For years, a shutdown of this magnitude in such a cosmopolitan city had been almost inconceivable. But as overdevelopment, population growth, and climate change upset the balance between water use and supply, urban centers from North America to South America and from Australia to Asia increasingly will face threats of severe drinking-water shortages.

Nowhere has that threat seemed to come on faster and catch more by surprise than it did in Cape Town.

Approaching "Day Zero"

The city prepped 200 emergency water stations outside groceries and other gathering spots. Each served almost 20,000 residents. Cape Town officials made plans to store emergency water at military installations, and said using taps to fill pools, water gardens, or wash cars is now illegal. Authorities stepped up water-theft patrols at natural springs. Unscrupulous traders drove up the price of bottled water.

Citizens were urged to consume less, but more than half of residents ignored those volunteer restrictions.

In January, the city requested even steeper cuts, asking residents to consume just 50 liters per day less than one-sixth of users elsewhere. If consumption doesn't drop steeply and quickly, city officials warned, everyone would have to live on far less, about 25 liters a day, less than typically used in four minutes of showering.

David Olivier, a research fellow at the Global Change Institute at South Africa's University of the Witwatersrand noted, "The fundamental problem is the kind of lifestyle we're living. The sense of entitlement and right to consume as much.

The Complications of Climate

The path to Cape Town's crisis is both typical and not. South Africa is arid, but Cape Town's most recognizable land mass, Table Mountain, traps onshore breezes coming off warm ocean waters, creating local rains that power rivers and fill underground aquifers. It is an oasis surrounded by desert with a Mediterranean climate. Its beauty has driven populations skyward and brought increasing wealth and prosperity. There are pools and water parks and wineries and lush gardens, though even as the city modernized, hundreds of thousands still live in impoverished settlements. Unemployment tops 25 percent. Over the last 20 years, the city recognized some of the increased threat. It made strides in reducing water use from its six major reservoirs, which hold up to 230 billion gallons of water. Per capita consumption declined, the city reduced leaks, it forced large users to pay more, and generally promoted water efficiency. Cape Town won several international water management awards.

WATER CRISIS: Is Kampala safe?

But officials also made an increasingly common mistake: They assumed future rainfall patterns would resemble the past, or at least not change too quickly. They solved the old problems, but they didn't recognize the risks ahead.

A decade ago, the city was told that population growth and shifts projected to come with climate change drier, hotter weather, with less winter rainfall, and reduced stream flows would require it to find additional water sources.

Those warnings were not enough to shift attention from schools or hospitals or all the other things on the agenda.

In the end, the dangers came suddenly. In 2014, the six dams were full, but then came three straight years of drought the worst in more than a century.

While it's not clear how much of the current dry spell is driven by natural variability as opposed to climate change. There may not be another drought like this for a few decades but extreme events are only going to become more common. And consequences could be felt in many other places across the globe.

Other World Cities like Kampala are at Risk

Already, droughts in recent years have helped spark famine and unrest in rural nations around the Arabian Sea, from Iran to Somalia. But water crises are also threatening massive cities around the world.

Many of the 21 million residents of Mexico City only have running water part of the day, while one in five get just a few hours from their taps a week. Several major cities in India don't have enough. Water managers in Melbourne, reported last summer that they could run out of water in little more than a decade. Jakarta is running so dry that the city is sinking faster than seas are rising, as residents suck up groundwater from below the surface.

Reservoirs in Sao Paulo, Brazil, dropped so low in 2015 that pipes drew in mud,

emergency water trucks were looted, and the flow of water to taps in many homes was cut to just a few hours twice a week. Only last-minute rains prevented Brazilian authorities from having to close taps completely. Sao Paulo was down to less than 20 days of water supply. What we're starting to see are the confluence of a lot of factors that might be underappreciated, ignored, or changing. Brought together, though, they create the perfect storm.

Competition for water is increasing, as population growth drives demand for drinking water and agriculture and as

countries become more affluent. In fact, cities aren't always even aware that the water they think they can count has been claimed or polluted or is being consumed by other users.

Climate change is causing wider swings in weather, with more intense storms and more extreme events.

At the same time, as with Mexico City, Jakarta or Kampala, infrastructure is often inadequate. Water management is unsanitary, leaky, polluted by heavy metals, or not sufficient to deliver enough supply to support demand.

Often the failure is about money, but there are almost always other dynamics at work, too.



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- Training on best Nursery Practices
- After sales service on planting and plantation establishment

Seedlings /clones	Price (UTGA members)	Price (UTGA Non members)
GUs	600	650
GCs796, 550, 578, 514	450	500
Indigenous species	400-1200	500-1500
PineSeedlings	450	500
Eucalyptus Grandis S.Africa	250	300
Fruit seedlings	1300	1500

*** Price discounts available for early & paid bookings

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City Royale Hotel Bugolobi

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UTG SACCO NEWS

UTG-SACCO announces asset growth & gets new board

UTG_SACCO announced a growth of Assets and gets new leadership:

UTG-SACCO held its AGM on Thursday February 22, 2018 at Protea Hotel Kila. During this AGM, the SACCO Treasurer announced an increase of Asset base from UGX 244,756,027 to UGX 310,787,709 he reported an increase of advance to members from UGX 134,913,982 of 2016 to UGX 204,084,363 in 2018 he also announced an increase in the net profit from UGX 17,333,981 of 2016 to UGX 31,766,170 in 2017 and shall be shared by members as dividends.

New leadership

During the AGM, UTG-SACCO made a peaceful transfer of leadership from Mr. Ponsiano Besesa leadership. The new UTG-SACCO EXCOM includes Mr. Edward Mupada Chairman, Vice Chairman Mr. Aggrey Kankunda, General Secretary Hon Sheila Kawamara, Treasurer Dr. Robert Nabanyumya, Executive Members: Mr. David Rwanika, Mr. Charles Kabunga and Ms Agnes Wasike.

New Chairman Edward Mupada receives Strategic Plan 2018-2022 ashis colleagues look on

UTG SACCO supports value addition

For the last 7 years, UTG-SACCO has been instrumental in bridging the cash flow gap of its members in form of loans. A number of members have enjoyed quick, flexible convenient loans from UTG-SACCO. With now an asset base of UGX 281,900,000, the SACCO is able to meet forestry needs of its members.

During 2017, the SACCO supported one of its members to finance value addition and many other members were able to carry out forestry activities using funds borrowed from the UTG-SACCO. When you visit ED Dominion you will see the wood crushing Machine that was partly purchased by the funds borrowed from UTG-SACCO.

The UTG-SACCO calls on all who want to join to pay UGX 100,000 membership fees and be part of this growing forestry financial institution.

UTGA News is a digital newsletter for the Uganda Timber Growers Association. It is published monthly (once a month) to briefly summarize recent forestry-related publications, projects, activities, news and other useful forestry info.

Do you have news, content, or ideas that you want to share in upcoming newsletters? Please send us your segments on articles and opinions on your organization, partnership, project, group, field stories, successes, challenges, fact sheets,

papers, books, guides, or other resources, upcoming or past events.

UTGA News is a great way to reach a wide audience of foresters, natural resource persons, practitioners, scientists and the publics across the Uganda, East Africa and across the globe.

If you have friends (*of forestry*) or anyone you think will benefit if they receive UTGA News, please send their email addresses to dennisk@utga ug.

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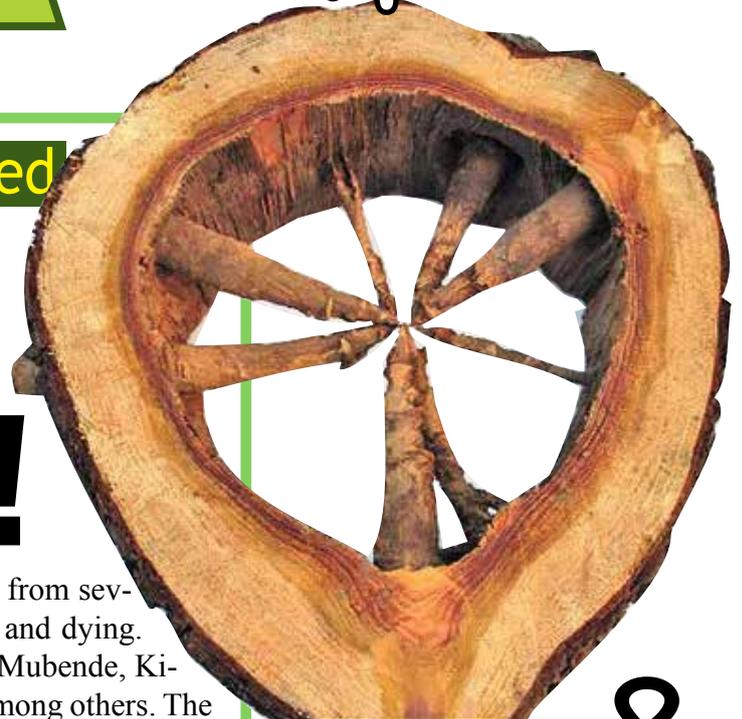
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UTGA



01st June 2018 No.52

Pines & Musizi most affected

TREE DEATHS!



PRUNING & Why its important

In plantation forestry, quality sawlogs and peeler logs are developed through a process of pruning branches from standing trees. Pruning produces clear wood required for the production of high grade construction material, furniture, decorative veneer and plywood because of its high quality and excellent appearance.

There are two types of pruning: natural pruning and artificial pruning. As *Eucalyptus* and *Maesopsis eminii* trees grow, their lower branches usually die off slowly through physical and environmental conditions and this is termed natural pruning. If the dead branches are left on the tree for a long time, an abscission layer will form, and they will start falling off on their own. Clear wood (knot free timber) is produced from the sections where branches fall.

Over the past months, UTGA received reports from several growers that their trees were drying up and dying. Complaints were received from the areas of Mubende, Kiboga, Nakaseke, Nakasongola, Luwero and Hoima among others. The complaints were mostly received during the early months of the year, mostly in the dry season but some went into the rainy season.

UTGA being a key member raised this as a contentious matter to the Commercial Forestry Research and Training (COMFORT) working platform as a key issue for discussion in their previous meeting with the aim of finding quick remedies to the problem. Some key highlights on the possible causes of the drying were highlighted by NaFORRI. These included; Pine Wilt Disease, Drought- relatively long dry spells, Site-species matching issues, Soil properties including clay hard pans, shallow soils, gravel, underlying rocks, Wetlands etc, Nematodes, Fungal infections and Pests and Untimely silvicultural operations leading to competition and tree stress.

Resulting from the COMFORT meeting, SPGS/FAO agreed to work closely with UTGA and NaFORRI to conduct a quick field assessment of the extent and likely cause of the problem.

Field assessments

A team constituted of the SPGS Technical Advisor, a Pest and Disease Specialist from NaFORRI and the UTGA Program Officer conducted the assessment. A total of five plantations were sampled and visited in Mubende, Kiboga, Nakaseke and Nakasongola with the aim of;

- Identifying any trends of the problem
- Ruling out the likely cause(s) of the drying
- Identifying signs & symptoms of pest and disease presence
- Advising growers on the quick remedies to the problem.

Findings

From the field visits and interviews with growers, there seemed to be

NFA fighting illegal logging

Uganda's suffers from a high rate of deforestation and forest degradation from 25% forest cover to the current 9%. Most of it is happening on privately owned forest cut down to pave way for agriculture and settlement.

The National Forestry Authority (NFA) is mandated to look after and manage Central Forest Reserves (CFRs). Yet forests under NFA suffer from encroachment

by timber cutters some of whom have been arrested and their tools confiscated.

On a visit to the NFA office in Kibaale, UTGA engaged the Sector Manager and were shown the results of work undertaken by the NFA staff there.



Illegal timber and poles from forest reserves



CONFISCATED: Army uniforms, axes and saws

WHY ARE TREES DYING?



a combination of factors leading to the drying up of the trees.

The most hit areas in Nakaseke (Wankweyo CFR) had had very many months with no rain.

Some signs of diseases were seen at some plantations. These included deformation of branches which could be due to Diplodia (a fungal infection), blue stain the drying wood, some resin pockets which could be a sign of the presence of nematodes. These interfere with the movement of water within the tree by damaging the vascular system hence the drying up of trees. However this can only be ruled out after samples have been tested in a laboratory.

All the affected plantations had not been thinned in time which might have increased competition leading to stress and drying up. Timely thinned compartments were not affected as much as un-thinned compartments.

Most of the sites were quite marginal with shallow soils, gravel, and too much clay that forms a clay pan during the dry season or underlying rocks. Most deaths were on trees planted on marginal sites.

The drying up of trees could be due to a combination of factors where those that are diseased were affected as a result of drought and related seasonal stress that increased their susceptibility to disease. In some places it was evident that soil factors were the source of tree death whereas others were due to stress from late thinning and prolonged dry spells.

Generally compartments that were affected, had received a 1st thinning but not 2nd and 3rd thinning and many were above 10 years.



The importance of

PRUNING

From page 1

The vigour of the trees and the density of the stand determine the rate at which branches die and fall off from the stem. Vigorously growing or widely spaced trees, take longer to drop their branches than closely spaced trees.

Natural pruning

Natural pruning may be assisted by knocking off the dead branches using a large wooden stick. This process is referred to as brashing. Edge trees normally develop large and persistent branches which do not fall off naturally thus have to be removed using a pruning saw.

In Teak and Pine plantations, if lower branches are not pruned, they tend to be persistent and eventually die from lack of light.

Artificial pruning

Artificial pruning is the removal of dead and live branches using a pruning saw, from the lower part



of the crown of a tree in shifts at predetermined times during the rotation of a tree crop.

The process of artificial pruning produces clear timber (knot free timber) from the basal sawlogs. The main objective of artificial pruning is to increase the value of saw logs by restricting the wood with knots to a central core (knotty core) of 10 cm in diameter and producing clear wood on the outer core. Artificial pruning can be carried out to a height, for example 2 m, 4 m and 6 m or to a diameter of 10 cm.

Pruning to a diameter (variable pruning height) normally works well for 1st pruning but is difficult to supervise. It prevents the over-pruning of suppressed and short trees which leads to a reduction in photosynthesis capacity. Pruning to a height has the disadvantage of over pruning short trees and under pruning tall trees but it is easy to supervise and monitor.

Pruning is a costly operation, which must be perceived as an investment to improve quality of the final timber product. Whilst the high costs associated with pruning operations are acknowledged, they are still justified in timber markets where there is good price for clear timber. In markets where no premium is paid for clear timber, it is not advisable to conduct pruning higher than 4m i.e. pruning for access and fire protection.



View from the Fire tower in Kirinnya plantation, Mayuge

NGP Tour - Uganda 2018



New Generation Plantations tour 2018 came to Uganda for the first time running from June 4th-8th, 2018. This was new territory.

The plantation industry in East Africa is in its infancy, but its potential is huge. Plantations can provide a route out of poverty for rural communities, contribute to moving fast-growing economies along a sustainable trajectory, take pressure off natural forests and restore ecosystems, and play a vital role in combating climate change. But there are also immense challenges, from attracting finance into a new, long-

term and risky proposition, dealing with complex land issues, social challenges and logistical difficulties.

The study tour was co-hosted by the New Forests Company (NFC) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF Uganda). The New Forests Company, one of East Africa's few private plantation (or "greenfield forestry") companies and guests from around the globe shared own experiences and ideas.

The overarching question of the tour was how to use responsible plantation forestry as an engine for sustainable development at scale in Africa. A question-based approach was used to generate discussions and solutions and they included barriers to sustainable greenfield plantation forestry, innovative financing solutions that



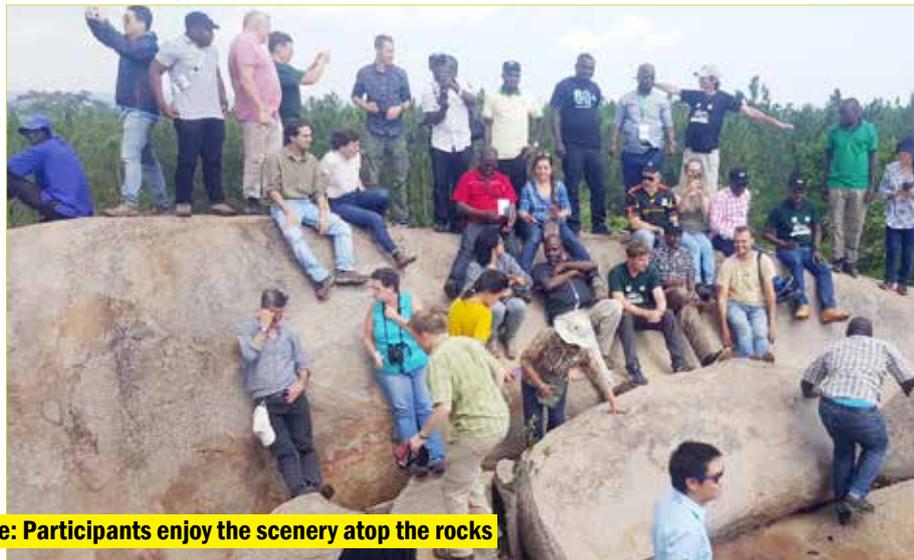
Participants of the tour at the Forest lodge



A field visit to outgrowers of NFC



Kirinya plantation, Mayuge: Participants enjoy the scenery atop the rocks



can scale up sustainable plantation forestry in Africa, how plantation companies can partner with communities to Create Shared Value, by reducing business risk, improving rural livelihoods and achieving economic success, partnerships between plantation forestry industry, civil society and national governments to drive macroeconomic development and the role plantation forests play in combatting illegal logging.

901 households who had encroached upon the forest reserve illegally were removed by the government from land which is now home to NFC's plantations at Namwasa. The mediation process was long and arduous and NFC agreed to provide the affected communities with a development grant.

Since the plantations have been established, the natural forest within the reserve has been making a comeback, along with the biodiversity it supports. NFC has made immense contribution to the communities and a level of trust and goodwill has been developed. But there's an awareness of the need to move from CSR to CSV – creating shared value as was seen at the Kirinya plantation.

The case for plantation forestry at scale is a compelling one. Africa is already facing a timber deficit, and its remaining forests becoming increasingly degraded, planting trees is essential to tackling climate change and the most cost-effective technology for taking carbon out of the atmosphere. And, it was clearly the hope of a better future.

References for this were made to a blog article of a participant at the study tour, Barney Jeffries.

NGP Study Tour - Uganda 2018



Summarized presentations at the end



After Lunch and discussions at the Mabira Forest Lodge



Hosts and visitors engage in a fast & furious dance fest

NFSS for Uganda launched



Hon Sam Cheptoris launches the NFSS for Uganda

Before 1950, half the country was forested. By 1990, this had fallen to 25% while currently, its estimated to be about 9% and still declining alarmingly. Forest degradation and deforestation is happening in both protected areas but mostly on private estate. Illegal logging, clearing for agriculture and charcoal burning are the main cause of this sad state of affairs yet Uganda has one of the highest population growth rates in the world.

Uganda's Minister of Water and Environment, Hon Sam Cheptoris in the presence of Kim Carstensen, Director General of FSC, officially launched the National Forest Stewardship Standard for Uganda.

"Uganda produces the best documents yet other countries implement them," the Minister said sarcastically. The new FSC standard can help to guide the long road to sustainable forest management and UTGA and its growers will be there to support. It's a product of a 10-year bottom-up process by the Standard Development Group (SDG) to translate the principles of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) into procedures and indicators customised to Uganda. The standard will provide a guide or benchmark for responsible forest management in the country.






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NOTICE

ANNUAL FEES

UTGA Members with unpaid subscription fees are reminded to send them by CASH/CHEQUE to the UTGA office,
Mobile money to 0785343564 or 0703343565 or you if you can make a bank deposit - please call the office

NEXT PLANTING

The next planting season is not far away!

Preparations for planting:-

- Clearing of land
 - Burning the rubbish
 - Booking for seedlings
- UTGA recommends the use of certified contractors (*List available on demand*).

UTGA has information on external suppliers for chemicals, herbicides and tools

NURSERY INFORMATION

UTGA currently has various seedlings which are ready for planting for the coming planting season Aug-Nov

These are:-

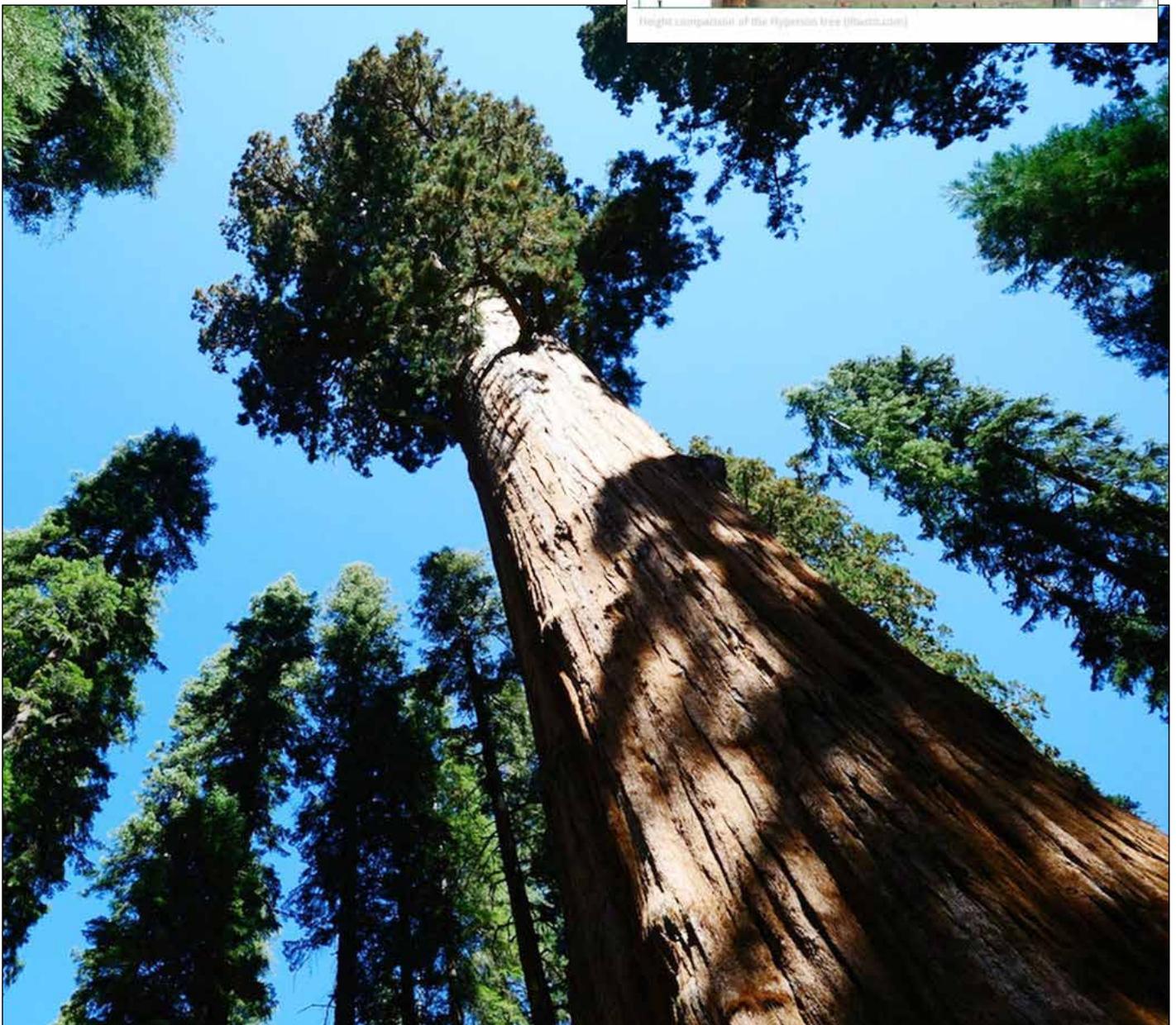
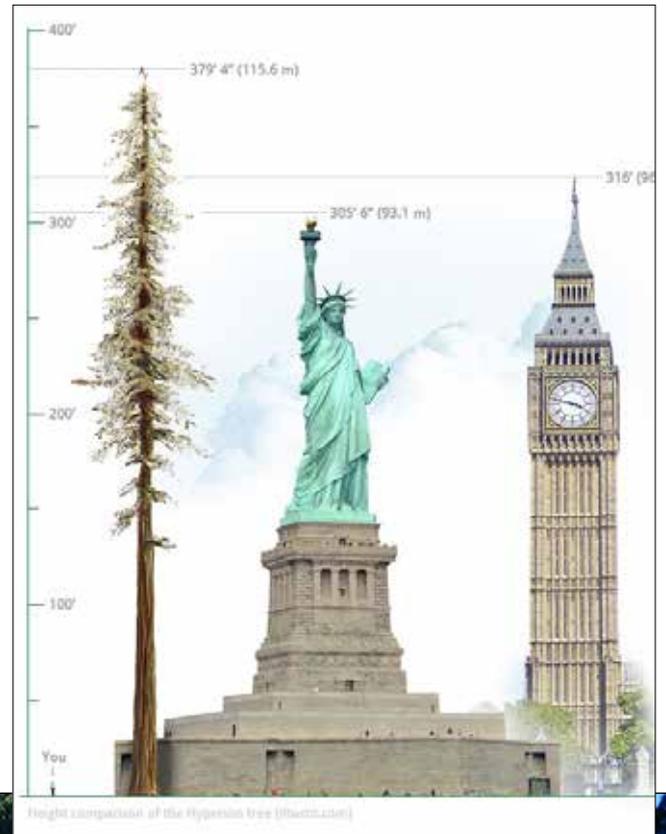
1. Pinus caribaea seedlings (Australia)
2. E.grandis seedlings
3. Clones (GU'S and GC'S)
4. Musizi seedlings
5. Melia seedlings
6. Gmelina seedlings

We therefore inform all tree growers to make orders/bookings with us in advance for proper planning to avoid inconveniences.

The World's Tallest Tree

The tallest trees in the world are redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*), which tower above the ground in California. These trees can easily reach heights of 300 feet (91 meters). Among the redwoods, a tree named Hyperion dwarfs them all. The tree was discovered in 2006, and is 379.7 feet (115.7 m) tall.

Found in Redwood National Park, the goliath tree Hyperion, was discovered by two hikers. To gain its official title, Hyperion was measured precisely by a team of scientists from Humboldt State University, using the highly complicated and technical method of climbing the tree and dropping a (really long) tape measure down its trunk. To gain some sense of perspective, an image of some famous tall landmarks helps to create comparisons.



UTGA Partners with UMEME in their *Go Green Campaign*

In April 2018 UTGA joined UMEME Ltd in its “Go-Green” campaign, a CSR project. The campaign focuses on supporting institutions to establish woodlots for their future benefits with particular interest in primary schools. Umeme’s other interest is to give back to the community where beneficiary schools are on the grid. UMEME uses this as an opportunity to establish safety clubs in schools to create awareness on safety issues surrounding the use of electricity. UTGA identified Kyankowe Primary School in Mityana as a possible beneficiary and worked closely with UMEME to support the establishment and maintenance of a clonal eucalyptus woodlot and a fruit orchard for the school. Apart from ensuring that the woodlots were planted with quality planting materials and to recommended standards, UTGA will continue monitoring and providing technical backstopping required for raising these woodlots to benefit the school.



Staff of UMEME & UTGA plant trees together with pupils from Kyankowe Primary School

UGANDA’S INDIGENOUS TREES

Match the *to the wood*





UGANDA'S INDIGENOUS TREES

Match the tree to the wood



Status of timber prices in Uganda

Current Average retail prices for Pine and Eucalyptus Timber			
Timber Size (inch)X(inch) X (ft)	Timber prices (Ugx)		
	Pieces/M ³	Price Per Piece (Ugx)	Price Per M ³
4x2x14	45	12,500	562,500
6x2x14	30	20,000	600,000
3x2x14	60	9,000	540,000
6x1x14	60	9,000	540,000
4X3X14	30	21,000	615,000
9X1X14	40	22,000	860,000
8X1X14	45	16,000	720,000
10X1X14	36	25,000	900,000
2X2X14	90	8,500	765,000
3X3X14	40	15,000	600,000
12X1X14	30	33,000	990,000
8X2X14	22	35,000	770,000

Timber trade is now booming in Uganda like never before. With the scarcity of timber from indigenous species on the market and increase in demand for sawn timber within the region, the future for commercial species is bright.

Timber dealerships have seen a

flurry of new investment with an influx of traders from the region and investors from around the world who have expressed interest in timber processing and value addition.

Within the period of one year, there has seen a steady rise in prices for sawn timber of Pine and Eucalyptus.

It is expected that timber prices for

these two species may increase by up to 20% before the year ends, if the trend continues.

The table above shows current average price for Pine and Eucalyptus timber for common dimensions in the major markets around the country.

Most dealers derive the prices of other dimensions from these.

New Forests Company supports UTGA nursery



Through the process of establishing the UTGA Model Nursery, appreciation goes out to the New Forests Company (NFC) for their support towards the construction of both the nursery beds and the tunneling shade for production of eucalyptus clones.

NFC has offered all the treated posts (an equivalent of 130 treated poles) required for construction of nursery beds at no cost. It's an honour to receive this great contribution from NFC.

Actions speak louder than words



Summary of UTG-SACCO Annual Report

The Year 2017 was challenging for the economy on the whole. The financial sector and the economy were characterized by slow growth resulting into poor repayments which hindered portfolio growth of the SACCO. However, we managed to overcome some challenges and remained profitable. Ultimately our resilience made us even more confident and relevant to our members.

Funding and Financial Performance

While it was planned in 2017 to increase SACCO Savings by 35%, SACCO savings increased by 9.4% to UGX 19,102,847 from UGX 17,462,616. This is a good achievement but below the target mainly because most members did not abide by the AGM resolution of compulsory Savings. Going forward all members are meant to save UGX 50,000 every month.

Share capital

While 40% increase of member's shares Capital were projected for 2017, this component grew by 54.1% from UGX 152,492,529 to UGX 235,072,632. Direct sale of shares to members were UGX 42,309,779 while UGX 40,270,324 were as a result of transfers from Savings Account to share Account. We are grateful to members who established standing orders. The selling of Shares in the 2017 AGM realized UGX 10,050,000.

Loan portfolio growth

While the EXCOM projected to increase loan portfolio by 25%, the outturn for 2017 was an increase of 52% from UGX 134,913,982 in 2016 to UGX 204,084,363 in 2017. The SACCO's annual total disbursements increased by 27.4% from UGX 233,100,000 to UGX 297,000,000. The portfolio at risk remains below 0.5%.

Challenges in 2017

- a) Challenging economic environment: There was instability in the banking system which contributed to low consumer confidence. GDP growth declined to 3.2 percent. These economic challenges affected our members causing late loan repayments, low savings and low share purchases.
- b) Slow membership growth: The UTG-SACCO membership growth has been slow even if a resolution at the AGM that each member attracts at least one new member to the SACCO. There were projections to recruit at least 10 new members yet only 6 joined the SACCO.
- c) Low adherence to compulsory monthly savings: A resolution was made at the AGM that each member of the SACCO MUST make a compulsory Saving of UGX 50,000 per month. Some members are not complying which leads to slow growth of the savings portfolio. In 2017, the SACCO only collected UGX 10,013,847 as direct savings from members instead of UGX 41,400,000. Members are encouraged to make standings orders for the compulsory monthly savings to our Account 2215600011 at Centenary Bank Corporate Branch in the name of Uganda Timber growers Cooperative Saving and Credit Society.

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WESTNILE TREE GROWERS MEET

On August 9th and 10th, UTGA conducted a Cluster meeting for the tree growers in West Nile. The two day event was well attended and attracted participants from 10 West Nile districts. These included UTGA members/growers, government officials (DFOs and NFA staff), prospective tree growers, commercial forestry service providers i.e. nursery operators and forest contractors. The event kicked off with sharing of experiences by the host Mr. Moses Obeta. Later, participants were taken through training segments on establishment, management and protection of forest plantations. UTGA is now tagging the training



A demo on soil auguring as part of site species matching

to themes that are specific to the region/cluster. Peter Mulondo the UTGA Programme Officer with support from Stella Apilli of SPGS/FAO trained the participants on;

• Silviculture and management of Teak (*Tectona*

grandis)

- Forest fire protection and management
- Site suitability and tree species choice
- Best planting practices

Tree Nursery Operators form Association

Uganda's forestry Industry has faced a number of challenges ranging from inadequate seed supply, poor quality seeds, poor quality germ plasm, inadequate skills in nursery practices and forest establishment to mention but a few. In April 2018, with the support of UTGA, tree nursery operators came together and agreed to form an association of nursery operators in order to address these challenges among others and ensure that tree planters across the country receive the best planting material, which ideally starts at the nursery.

An interim committee led by Dr. Byakatonda Abdul was elected and they have been able to formally reg-

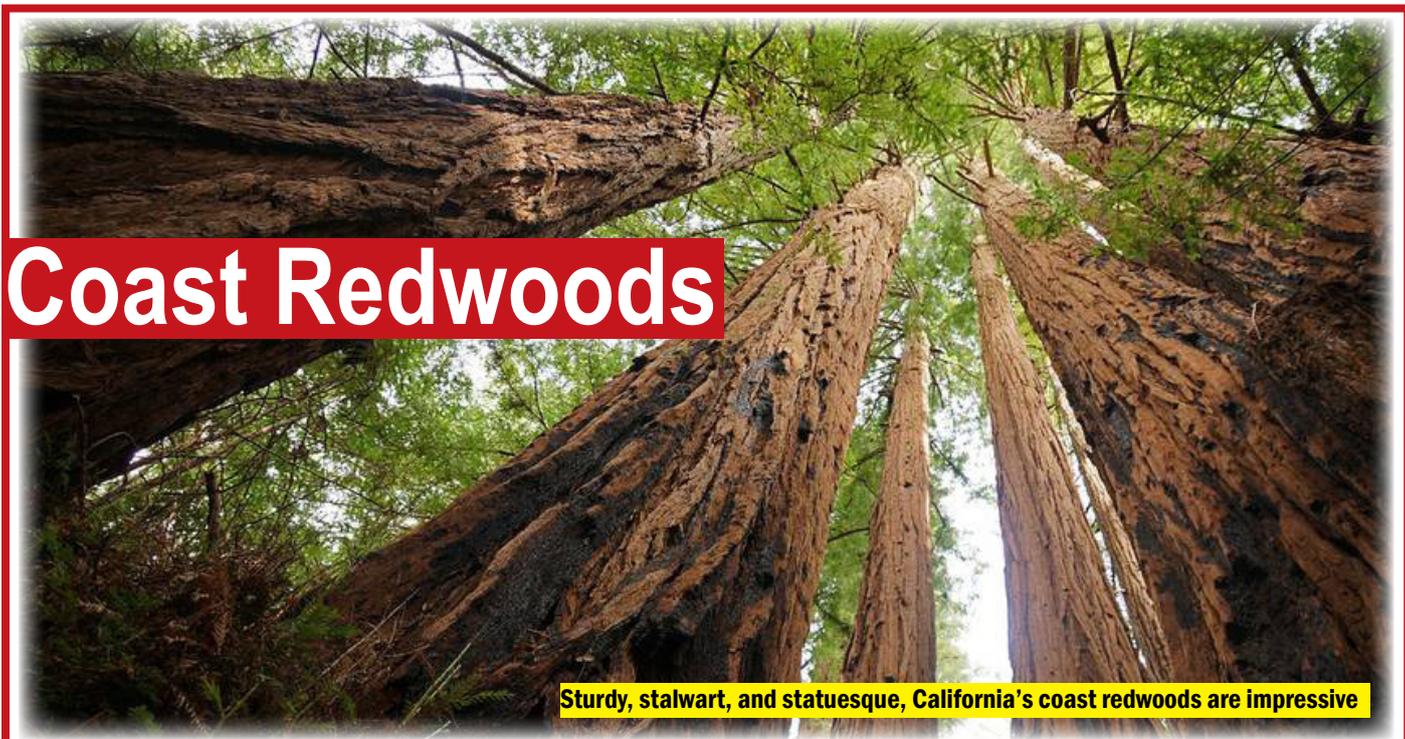
ister the name "Union of Nursery Operators."

Why the association?

Uganda needs a vibrant forestry industry to address its timber/wood product demand. Therefore the link between seed suppliers, commercial tree nurseries, tree growers and other stakeholders is critically important for this forestry value.

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be organised so that tree nursery operators are able to join and ratify their association since the role they play in the industry is very important.

Proposed annual membership fees are: For Companies – 300,000/= and individuals/CBO's – 200,000/=



Coast Redwoods

Sturdy, stalwart, and statuesque, California's coast redwoods are impressive

For thousands of years the people of the area managed to live in harmony with these ancient trees, understanding the importance of their unique forest ecosystem. Today, only 5 percent of the original old-growth coast redwood forest remains, fewer than 100,000 acres dotted along the coast.

Some facts on these supertrees include:

1 They are ancient

Coast redwoods are among the oldest living organisms in the world and can live for more than 2,000 years i.e. some of these were alive during the Roman Empire.

2 They are very tall

Attaining soaring heights of more than 300 feet, they are so tall that their tops are out of sight. The tallest one of all is called Hyperion and stands at 379.7 feet in height.

3 They host sky-high worlds

They have soil on the upper branches of the canopy that support other plants and whole communities of worms, insects, salamanders and mammals.

4 Their roots intertwine

One might think that such a lofty being would require deep roots, but no. The roots only extend down six to twelve feet.

But what they lack in depth, they make up for in breadth. Extending up to 100 feet from the tree's base, they intertwine with the roots of others, all holding on to each other, greatly increasing their stability.

5 They thrive on fog

They are in the temperate area where rain provides water when its cold; yet in the summer, the trees rely on coastal fog for moisture. The fog condenses on the needles and forms into droplets, absorbed by the trees and shed to the ground where it waters the forest understory. Fog accounts for around 40 percent of the redwoods' moisture intake.

6 They've got thick bark

With a deep rosy hue of their surface, the redwoods' bark up to 12 inches thick is impressive beyond color and allows the trees to generally survive forest fires, Tannins in the bark also help fend off damaging insects.

7 They are climate-change fighting superstars

Trees store carbon dioxide and are an important ally in fighting climate change. According to research, coast redwoods store more CO₂ than any other forest in the world They hold 2,600 metric tons of carbon per hectare (2.4 acres).

GROWERS IN WESTNILE MEET



Growers from West Nile sheltering from the Sun under 3 year-old teak trees

Growers had an opportunity to share information and network on the second day while UTGA presented on key issues arising in

the forestry sector including timber exports, downstream processing, value addition, marketing, current opportunities and challenges in the sector. Other updates included news about seed availability and the services available at UTGA.

Mr. Moses Onono, the Northern re-

gion representative on the UTGA BOD encouraged members to join the association and reiterated the benefits of working as a group. Growers from the West Nile cluster were encouraged to seek exposure from other clusters since many of the growers were still at the level of establishment. The secretariat pledged to invite some members to other cluster development meetings so that they learn from the early planters.

UTGA fasttracks FSC group certification using electronic system



Michal, Peter and team during the field assessments

During 24-28 September 2018, UTGA in conjunction with the Center for Modernization of Operations (CMO) conducted an FSC Group Scheme certification training and internal assessment for the six pioneer member plantations. Michal Brink (CMO) was the lead Auditor and trainer with Peter Mulondo (PO- UTGA) as the local expert and assistant trainer. The activity aimed at; introducing the electronic certification system the first of its kind in the world to the group members and training the managers on how to use and update it. The electronic system is a precursor to the software version that CMO hopes to roll out in the nearest future.

The activity also involved an internal assessment guided by an audit checklist generated from the newly approved National Forestry Stewardship Standard for Uganda (NFSS).

The plantations selected to break new ground in Uganda have by and large lived up to the expectations during the internal audits and coaching. There is thus more confidence and commitment now that UTGA will obtain an FSC group certificate after the main assessment that will be conducted by Soil Association come December 2018.

The state of the World's forests, 2018

CARBON SINKS:
Acting as carbon sinks, forests absorb the equivalent of about 2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is a commitment made by countries to tackle the complex challenges we face, from ending poverty and hunger and responding to climate change to building resilient communities, achieving inclusive growth and sustainably managing the Earth's natural resources.

As governments determine how best to commit national efforts to achieve transformational change, The State of the World's Forests 2018 (SOFO 2018) analyses the role that forests and trees – and the people who use and manage them can play in helping

countries achieve their objectives and bring about a brighter future. SOFO 2018 shines a light on the profound interlinkages that exist between forests and many other goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, enabling policymakers to strike the right balance in actions, investments and partnerships directed towards food security, poverty alleviation, ecological conservation and, ultimately, to find pathways to sustainable development.

Forests and trees make vital contributions to both people and the planet, bolstering livelihoods, providing clean air and water, conserving biodiversity and responding to climate change. Forests act as a source of food, medicine and fuel for more than a billion people. In addition to helping to respond to climate change and protect soils and water, forests

hold more than three-quarters of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, provide many products and services that contribute to socio-economic development and are particularly important for hundreds of millions of people in rural areas, including many of the world's poorest. The world's population is projected to increase from around 7.6 billion today to close to 10 billion people by 2050. The corresponding global demand for food estimated to grow by

Call for *Pinus Caribaea* F.2 Australia Seed orders

UTGA calls for seed orders for the First Planting Season 2019, seed is expected in October, 2018 from Australia. Send in kilogram orders and prepare to make at least 50% deposits to confirm bookings.

Call: 0785343564

2018: THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS

50 percent during this period is placing enormous pressure on the way we use productive land, particularly in developing countries where the overwhelming majority of the world's 800 million poor and hungry people are concentrated. Deforestation, chiefly caused by the conversion of forest land to agriculture and livestock areas, threatens not only the livelihoods of foresters, forest communities and indigenous peoples, but also the variety of life on our planet. Land-use changes result in a loss of valuable habitats, land degradation, soil erosion, a decrease in clean water and the release of carbon into the atmosphere. **How to increase agricultural production and improve food security without reducing forest area is one of the great challenges of our times.**

Evidence is key to opening the forest pathways to sustainable development. While the importance of forests and trees to a healthy, prosperous planet is universally recognized, the depth of those roots may be greater than imagined. Several indicators under SDG15 focus on forests, specifically monitoring forest land and the share of forests under sustainable management. The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), coordinated by FAO, found that the world's forest area decreased from 31.6 percent of the global land area to 30.6 percent between 1990 and 2015, but that the pace of loss has slowed in recent years.



A plantation of eucalyptus trees in Mubende

RECREATION

Children are generally more active when they have access to green spaces. The obesity rate of children living in areas with good access to green spaces is 11-19% lower than in those who have limited or no access.

The people left furthest behind are often located in areas in and around forests. The livelihoods and food security of many of the world's rural poor depend on vibrant forests and trees. Evidence shows that around 40 percent of the extreme rural poor – around 250 million people – live in forest and savannah areas. Access to forest products, goods and services are vital for the livelihoods and resilience of the poorest households, acting as safety nets in difficult times. Some studies suggest that forests and trees may provide around 20 percent of income for rural households in developing countries, both through cash income and by meeting subsistence needs. Non-wood forest products (NWFPs) provide food, income, and nutritional diversity for an estimat-

ed one in five people around the world, notably women, children, landless farmers and others in vulnerable situations.

Water quality, essential to the health and life of both rural and urban populations, is directly related to forest management. Changes in land cover, use and management have grave implications on a nation's water supply. While three-quarters of the globe's accessible freshwater comes from forested watersheds, research shows that 40 percent of the world's 230 major watersheds have lost more than half of their original tree cover. Despite this, the area of forests managed for soil and water conservation has increased globally over the past 25 years, and in 2015 a quarter of forests were managed with soil and/or water conservation as an objective.

Modernizing the traditional wood energy sector has the power to improve livelihoods, create sustainable value chains and unlock resources for investments in sustainable forest management.



Benefits of belonging & working within an organised group

UTGA ADVISORY: REASONS WHY GROWERS SHOULD JOIN AS MEMBERS

1 Receive member discounts on improved seed, seedlings, tools, equipment, chemicals and other forestry inputs that are collectively procured.

2 Support lobbying & advocacy on the critical issues affecting commercial forestry investments. Join and enjoy the lobby for a fair and supportive tax regime on forestry products among other incentives.

3 Benefit from centralized market development initiatives and collective bargaining, help to develop and access domestic and regional markets.

4 Receive professional advice and services from a team of experienced Technical Advisors (TA). Receive relevant hands-on training skilling of investors and tree farm managers, supervisors and workers on all areas of the forestry value chain.

5 Receive relevant information through regular newsletters, the UTGA Website and other platforms that strive to leverage issues of commercial forestry to the fore.

6 Network with other growers at regular forest days in each cluster & benefit from the information sharing and collaboration. Promote better forestry skills among tree farmers and communities;

7 Benefit from incentives to private sector forestry investments including land use and forest management planning services that protect the rights of private forest growers to plant, regenerate, manage and harvest their trees;

8 Have a voice to direct research and training needs and be able to mitigate against pests, diseases and any other issues afflicting the wellbeing of trees.

9 Enjoy the benefits of being part of an organized group and be able to leverage and synchronize the interests of the group members and the public. Enjoy Support for treegrower cooperatives and regional coordination. and be part of the drive for group certification to help identify products that are coming from responsibly managed forests and processes.

NOTICE

ANNUAL FEES

UTGA Members with unpaid subscription fees are reminded to send them by CASH/CHEQUE to the UTGA office, Mobile money to 0785343564 or 0703343565 or you if you can make a bank deposit - please call the office

PLANTING

The planting season is with us now!

UTGA recommends that you buy seedlings from the UTGA Nursery (*List available on www.utga.ug*) or from any other certified nurseries and that you use certified contractors. UTGA also has information on external suppliers for chemicals, herbicides and tools.

THE UTGA NURSERY

UTGA currently has the following planting material ready for sale:-

1. Pinus caribaea seedlings (Australia)
2. Eucalyptus Clones (GUs and GCs)
3. Melia seedlings
4. Jack fruit seedlings

We therefore inform all tree growers to make orders/bookings with us in advance for proper planning to avoid inconveniences.

We are also taking orders for Pinus caribaea seed (Australia) for the 1st planting season of 2019.

2018: STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS

The potential of forests is perhaps no better illustrated than in the fact that wood grows back. Around one-third of the world's population, or about 2.4 billion people, make use of wood to provide basic energy services such as cooking, boiling water and heating. Overall, forests supply about 40 percent of global renewable energy in the form of woodfuel – as much as solar, hydroelectric and wind power combined. Emphasis must now be on producing woodfuel more sustainably to reduce forest degradation, as well as more cleanly and efficiently to improve the health of millions of people, particularly women and children.

The world's response to climate change – in terms of adaptation, mitigation and resilience – must focus more on forests. As underscored at the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015, forests and trees play a crucial role in determining the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmo-

sphere. Acting as carbon sinks, they absorb the equivalent of roughly 2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide each year. However, deforestation is the second-leading cause of climate change after burning fossil fuels and accounts for nearly 20 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions – more than the world's entire transport sector. Effective forest management can strengthen resilience and adaptive capacities to climate-related natural disasters, underscoring the importance of integrating forest-based measures into national disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies. Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the roles of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (known as REDD+) will be vital for global efforts to combat climate change. The 25 countries with the highest forest cover have all included forest-related mitigation measures (reduced deforestation and forest degradation, afforestation,

enhancement of forest carbon stocks, forest conservation and agroforestry) in their Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), instruments for meeting the SDGs.

Qualitative evidence suggests that forests and trees also make significant contributions to SDGs through the informal sector, agroforestry, opportunities to empower women, sustainable water management, tourism, sustainable cities, climate change adaptation and tackling land degradation and biodiversity loss. Nature-based tourism, for example, is growing three times faster than the tourism industry as a whole, and now accounts for approximately 20 percent of the global market. The integration of green space and tree cover in urban planning is also on the rise, with studies showing links to a reduction in levels of both obesity and crime, though measuring and evaluating such benefits remains challenging. In view of growing urbanization and climate change, the design, planning and management of urban green spaces, including forests

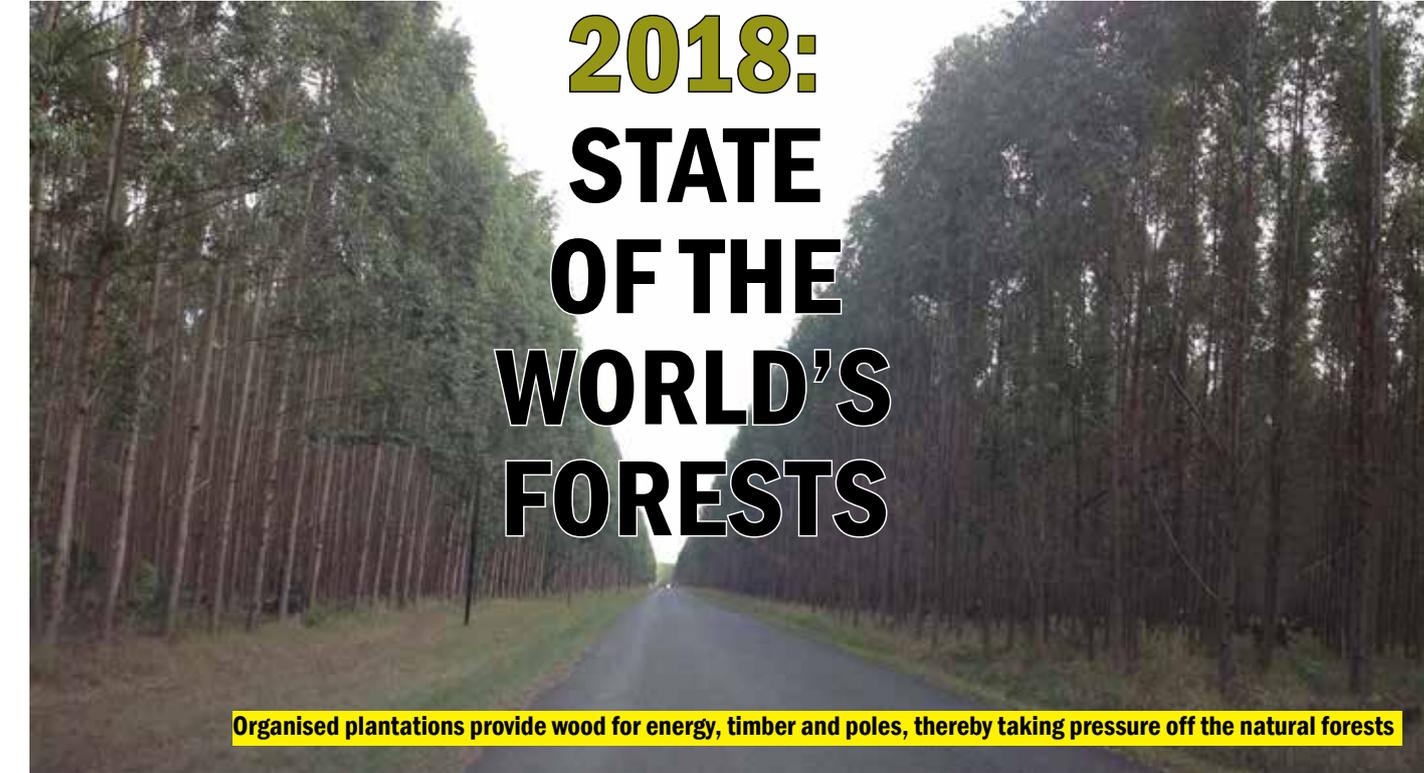
FSC Chain of Custody Interpretations

On the 1st of August, FSC released a number of interpretations, affecting both FSC Forest Management and Chain of Custody certificate holders. We will be providing information on them all shortly.

The most immediate of these interpretations, INT-STD-40-004 38, potentially involves all certificate holders who have W1 (firewood logs) in their product schedules. It provides clarification on FSC-

STD-40-004 V3-0 Chain of Custody Certification, Box 4, d) and states that a trader who buys firewood logs is NOT permitted to sell them as pulp logs (or anything else of a higher value). This is because buying firewood and selling it as pulpwood would represent an upgrading of product quality, which is not allowed according to FSC standards.

Traders need to comply with this interpretation from 1st August 2018.



2018: STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS

Organised plantations provide wood for energy, timber and poles, thereby taking pressure off the natural forests

and trees, should be integrated into urban planning at an early stage. The role of forests and trees should be reflected in climate mitigation and adaptation policies.

Addressing agriculture and forests together in developing national development policies is critical to achieving the SDGs. Sustainable agriculture needs healthy and productive forests. Forests and trees support sustainable agriculture by, for example, stabilizing soils and climate, regulating water flows, providing shade, shelter and a habitat for pollinators and the natural predators of agricultur-

al pests. When integrated into agricultural landscapes, forests and trees can increase agricultural productivity. They also help provide food security for hundreds of millions of people, for whom they are important sources of food, energy and income during hard times.

The world's primary objectives of ending poverty and achieving sustainability will be greatly enhanced by strengthening legal frameworks that recognize and secure the rights of local communities and smallholders to access forests and trees. Globally, 1.5 billion local and indigenous people have secured rights over forest resources through com-

munity-based tenure. There are significant benefits in giving local people with traditional knowledge the ability to influence decision-making in ways that contribute to SDG targets. With clear and secure rights, people are more likely to take a longer-term approach to forest management, as they know that they or their successors will benefit from this. Where insecure tenure is a critical problem, frameworks such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests can help to provide certainty.

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MUBENDE GROWERS CLUSTER MEETING



Participants at the Mubende Cluster meeting listen to a UTGA facilitator

UTGA held a cluster development meeting for the Mubende cluster on the 7th and 8th November 2018. The two day event commenced with a field day at the Kirangwa plantation of Dr. Godfrey Bahigwa and a half day meeting the next day at the Pride Traveler's Hotel, Mubende.

To page 4

UTGA PASSES FSC MAIN AUDIT



The main assessment of the UTGA-FSC group certification scheme was conducted between 14th and 15th December 2018. The audit followed the selection of soil association as the certifying body and preparations in partnership with CMO. Out of the six member plantations only three of them were able to close out their major and some minor non conformances (Corrective Action Requests) and these were the ones considered for the main assessment. They included;

1. Buyigi Estates,
2. Isabella Investments
3. Kirangwa Plantation.

The ones that were not part of the sample but who now need to quickly work on the issues that needed attention at this initial stage but are still part of the scheme included BakWood plantation, Besepo limited and Eden Forestry

Company. These will then be included in the certificate during the extension of scope. As the norm is, those that made it were fronted to the soil association from which the lead auditor Dr. Severinus Jembe sampled one of the plantations to represent the group. Buyigi Estates was chosen for the main assessment although the documentation of all the other two was also tabled and considered. The lead auditor worked closely with Mr. Steve Nsiita who was the local expert.

The activity started with preliminary preparations by UTGA who were working closely with CMO.

The certification team was led by Michal Brink as the group manager while Peter Mulondo was the Resource Manager for the UTGA group scheme and the plantation management of the forest management unit. The four days of



The initial engagement in the field between the auditors and the plantation managers at Buyigi Estates

final preparations both in the field and on desk culminated into a two day main assessment that took place on 14th and 15th December.

The audit involved;

1. An opening meeting.
2. A Document review process that closed off the first day.
3. A field visit.
4. A closing meeting.

Being a main assessment, the auditors carried out a 100% check against all principles, criteria and indicators using the National Forestry Stewardship Standard (NFSS) for Uganda. The group scheme was the first to be audited against this standard since its approval by FSC in June 2018 and it was the first time a group scheme was being audited against a National Standard.

Results

1. The auditors did not find any major non conformity and therefore no Major CAR was raised.
2. Four minor non conformities were raised.

The group was therefore declared fit for certification. After a review process, the certificate will be issued not later than 90 days from the audit.



Peter Mulondo (UTGA), Anna Agasha (FSC East Africa), Dennis Kavuma (UTGA) and Michal Brink (CMO) after the closing meeting



Michal Brink from CMO, with UTGA staff during internal preparations for the FSC main assessment

The audit was also attended by a team of four officers from FAO/SPGS and the FSC East Africa regional manager as observers.

MUBENDE CLUSTER GROWERS MEET



There were 2 groups at 2 different sites within the same plantation for the cluster meeting. Each handled specific forestry issues

The meeting brought together tree growers from the areas of Mityana, Mubende, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Fort Portal, Kasese, Kabarole and other areas which are within the Mubende cluster. The main objective of the meeting was for participants to benefit

from selected practical field demonstrations of best forestry practices, have a platform for networking, information sharing through training, other field exposure and experiences and getting feedback on pertinent issues specific to their areas of operation in the commercial forestry sector.

Another aim was to introduce UTGA as a body to prospective members and encouraging them to join the Association which is a voice for players in Uganda's commercial forestry industry. The meeting attracted 54 participants on the first day in the field while 42 participants attended the in-house meeting the next day.

They included SPGS clients, UTGA growers, other tree growers in and outside the cluster, service providers including suppliers, contractors, nursery operators, district forestry officials, officers from the National Forestry Authority, security officers, local leaders and UTGA staff.

The activity is one of five cluster meetings for key commercial forestry stakeholders conducted in contribution to the SPGS III project results in the



period 2018-2020.

Preparations

A reconnaissance visit had been conducted before the activity to perform a cluster-based needs assessment that helped to identify the technical and information gaps that needed to be addressed during the meetings.

The field day

Outstanding issues identified for discussion during the meeting included pine resin tapping as a source of interim revenue, species choice and site-species matching, the purpose, benefits and processes of thinning, timely thinning for maximum sawlog volume production and pruning, eucalyptus pole sourcing information covering information on pole selection, common challenges, maximize pole production with reference to qualities of good poles, age, strength, chemical penetration, form, knots, dimensions, pole harvesting and its effects on pole quality, post-harvest handling, pole seasoning, coast implications and fu-



The 2nd group of participants at the UTGA Mubende cluster meeting

MUBENDE CLUSTER GROWERS MEET

ture prospects for transmission pole production, logistics and marketing issues.

There was knowledge imparting on other best forestry practices e.g. compartmentation, good tree stocking & tree growth, health & safety,

The final part of the day was dominated by presentations from product and service providers who included Aquadines Limited which is supplying forestry investors with chemicals for pest and weed control and an assortment of forestry tools and equipment, Ryra Investments which has partnered with UTGA to supply planting hydrgels like aquasoil, plus a number of forest contractors operating in the cluster.

A representative from the UTGA Board, Mr. Vincent Kaija attended and he talked to fellow growers on the need to approach issues as a group.

Day two

The following day, a meeting was held at a conference hall at the Pride Travelers' Hotel in Mubende.

There were presentations made by UTGA staff plus updates and discussions with the members in a question and answer session. Some of the key issues presented discussed included;

- A recap of the field day activities
- Opportunities for additional revenue from Forest Plantations like resin tapping
- Introduction of the FSC group certification scheme for the Mubende cluster and its future.
- Updates on timber trade including prospects for value addition and processing, marketing, transportation.
- The need for a collective effort “Coalition of the willing” and timber trade export prospects
- Uganda Timber Growers SACCO, the UTGA nursery and forestry services provided at UTGA
- Seed updates on species, prices, a call for orders and related information.

2018: The state of the World's forests



The periphery of the Bugoma forest in Bunyoro also has plantations to provide poles, fuelwood and timber which protects the natural forest from encroachment

Continued from last issue

Looking ahead, there is a need to learn from successful experiences in community forest management, recognizing the importance of scientific and technical support, training, capacity-building and access to markets, market information and adequate financial resources, as well as the need for clarity in setting out the rights and responsibilities of different parties. All these measures

SUPERHERO

From tackling poverty and hunger to mitigating climate change and conserving biodiversity, the positive impacts of forests and trees are fundamental to our existence.

will need to be in place if forest pathways to sustainable development are to be strengthened. Access to land, resources and investments in and around forests can propel women, youth and other rural entrepreneurs to be agents of change in the transformation to a sustainable world.

Strengthening tenure rights presents an opportunity to enhance gender equitable access to forests and trees, as well as encouraging a long-term, sustainable approach to forest management. Studies highlight the entrepreneurial role that women play, especially in the informal sector, and their leadership role in community and participatory forest management. The enterprise and

energy of youth is just as vital for the future of the sector. Investment in training, capacity-building and the development of producer organizations can help persuade young people to see the value of making a living by the forest and resist uncertain migration. Investing in the informal sector by increasing economic activity, improving employment conditions and fostering a more sustainable approach to forest management can have a positive impact that stretches from forest to farm to town to city. Providing economic incentives to smallholders and communities to manage trees on forest lands is likely to prove rewarding.

A positive enabling environment is fundamental for attract-

2018: THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS

ing the private sector to pro-sustainability activities.

Both the formal and informal forest sectors include large numbers of small or micro businesses, while at the other end of the scale there are some very large companies. On a small scale, priorities often include training to improve land management practices, the promotion of agroforestry, the development of producer organizations, better access to markets and the availability of suitable financing arrangements. On a larger scale, there may be a need to address potential barriers to investment, often financial or infrastructure-related. Policy interventions are likely to include a mix of regulatory approaches and incentives to engage in activities that are not necessarily covered by the market, such as ecosystem services and sustainable forest manage-

WATER FOUNTAIN
Our forests are our water fountains. They provide much of the drinking water for over 1/3 of the world's largest cities.

ment. At the same time, it will be important to address potential barriers to investment and remove incentives to clear forests. Partnerships with the private sector will be crucial in developing private governance initiatives, such as voluntary certification schemes and commitments to 'zero-deforestation' supply chains.

Acting with forests in mind to achieve the SDGs

To accomplish the historic ambition of ending hunger and poverty and transforming to a sustainable world, the 2030 Agenda expects sectoral ministries to change the way they work and to coordinate policies across government.

Actions on forests, agriculture, food, land use, rural and national development must synchronize in the future if sustainable development is

to be realized. Although drivers vary significantly between countries and regions, policymakers must recognize the need to manage trade-offs and set out concrete measures for better aligning multiple objectives and incentive structures. This integrated approach is critical for progressing towards the SDG targets. Establishing SDG implementation platforms composed of key sectors in natural-resource use and management is one way of managing cross-sectoral coordination and overcoming difficulties in governments that have sector-based ministries and agencies, with their own resource allocations and accountability arrangements. SDG implementation platforms would bring together different ministries and government agencies with other key stakeholders working in dialogue and coordinated action, with a focus on achieving the SDGs and benefitting from interlinkages, identifying and addressing barriers to change and monitoring progress.

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LIFE INSURANCE
The livelihoods and food security of around 250 million rural poor depend on vibrant forests and trees.

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