

SPGS III

Project supporting Commercial forestry through grants sets off



A wood processing demo at the SPGS III launch at Ferdsult in Buikwe

Word from the General Manager

Commercial private tree growers have established in excess of 60,000ha As the trees grow, some of the tree growers are desirous of selling their interests and changing ownership. There is therefore a number of tree farmers who have expressed interest in transferring rights of their plantations to third parties. The National Forestry Authority (NFA) has developed guidelines to enable this process and has shared them with UTGA for feedback. These guidelines are prepared to help the process of legal transfer of ownership rights of the tree farmer to a third party. The guidelines will be used by NFA, the licensee who wishes to transfer interest and the person acquiring the interest. Commercial forestry is a business. The ability to buy, sell and transfer plantations can only be good for the market and the industry.

The 3rd phase of the Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS) which is an initiative of the Government of Uganda funded by the European Union, with counterpart financing from the Government of Uganda and implemented by the Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was launched on July 21, 2016. The Scheme supports interested private sector investors to establish and manage commercial forest plantations through a conditional and

To page 3

1st National REDD+ Academy In Africa Held In Uganda

Uganda hosted Africa's first National REDD+ Academy from 11-15 July, 2016. Forty participants took part in the training, includ-

ing representatives from the Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Justice, National Forestry Authority, civil society, the private sector

and academia. In an innovative capacity-building feature of this national-level event, national experts presented

To page 10

Uganda's SDG completes draft NFSS

Uganda's Forestry Standard Development Group finished its work on developing a National Forestry Stewardship Standard (NFSS) for the country. The draft underwent sufficient reviews, consultation and testing by a number of stakeholders to ensure



that it meets the aims and objectives set out at the start and that it merits the approval by FSC. All the Members of the Economic, Social and Environment chambers agreed by consensus and without objection to submit it. The SDG over a number of meetings was able to discuss, integrate and approve comments made into the final draft. The meetings included a National Consultative Forum held on the 14th June 2016 to review stakeholder's inputs and contributions. Subsequently, Draft 3 NFSS was submitted to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for final review and consideration into the FSC framework. The work by the SDG was facilitated by the National focal Point, Edward Mupada and consultants from Havillah (U) Ltd. Steve Nsita and Stephen Khaukha who were key in supporting, guiding and integrating comments from stakeholders.

Uganda is a signatory to the United Nations Non-legally Binding Instrument on all types of forests (2008), that encourages the private sector, civil society organizations and forest owners to develop, promote and implement instruments, such as voluntary certification systems or other appropriate mechanisms, to develop and promote forest products from sustainably managed forests. This is in line with the Uganda National Forestry Policy (2001). Uganda therefore embarked on development of a National Standard for responsible forest management based on global Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) principles, criteria and international generic indicators. The National

Standard developed by the Forestry Standards Development Group - Uganda (SDG-Uganda) was in partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature Uganda office (WWF UCO). Draft 2 of the NFSS had been submitted to the FSC on 29th March 2016 for consideration. The SDG was being hosted by Environmental Alert on behalf of the Uganda Forestry Working Group (UFWG).

SEEDLINGS FROM FERDSULT ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD

Quality seedlings are now available at very attractive prices:



Pine seedlings (Caribaeac-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



SPGS III



Government officials and guests at the launch

retrospective subsidy. The grant is paid after planting together with regular practical training and technical advice necessary to make tree planting profitable.

Since 2004, SPGS has supported establishment of close to 50,000ha of plantations for timber, poles and fuelwood. SPGS III was launched by the Minister of Water and Environment Sam Cheptoris, in the presence of Michelle Labeuu, EU Head of Operations, Alhaji M. Jallow, the Food and Agriculture Organisation Country Representative in Uganda, Ronald Kibuule, State Minister of Water and Mary Kitutu, Minister of State for Environment. The launch took place at Ferdsult plantation in Lugazi, Buikwe District, one of the SPGS project beneficiaries.

Funding

The project is funded by the European Union aimed at increasing rural incomes through commercial tree planting. It also helps in mitigating climate

change effects through intensive afforestation. The current phase is expected to run until July 2020. A key innovation of the project is that it includes a new component of downstream processing and value addition.

The plantations established in phases I & II (2004-2009) are due for harvesting, yet the planters continue to meet several challenges are a result of the informality in the market place. These include low processing technology, low prices offered by middle/processors, long distances to the few sawmills available and poor infrastructure in and out of the plantations. The downstream processing is meant to complete the cycle starting from preparing planting material to a finished qualitative wood product including realising the true value of intermediary products from mainly thinning material.

All the speakers on the day expressed confidence that the new implementing partners for SPGS III--FAO, in collaboration with the

To page 10

NOTICE

TOOLS FOR SALE

Diameter tapes - 2mtrs at UGX40,000/piece

Calipers - 46cm at UGX 180,000/piece

Bahco pruning saws – high pruning at UGX 104,000/ piece

Lasher pruning saws at UGX 50,000/piece

N.B Prices apply for UTGA Members only

SEED ORDERS FOR 1ST PLANTING SEASON 2017

Members interested in purchasing Eucalyptus seed from South Africa and Pine seed (*Pinus Caribea*) from Australia and Brazil for the 1st Planting Season of 2017, to

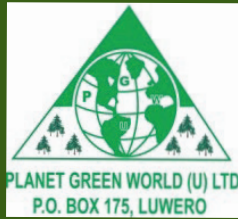
send their orders to UTGA to allow for timely preparations.

UTGA PAID FOR FORESTRY SERVICES

UTGA Office offers the services below for Members at subsidized rates

- Forest Plantation valuation
- Technical onsite trainings and advise
- GIS Mapping
- Forest Management Plans and guidance on how to draw them
- Forest Inventory

Please get in touch with the UTGA office by calling **0785-343564** or by sending an email to info@utga.ug or caroln@utga.ug



PLANET GREEN WORLD U LTD

Conserving Environment and Financial Solutions

Undertakes all forest services, horticultural services, Agricultural farm supplies, Construction, Real Estate Financial Services.

FOREST ESTABLISHMENT AND MANTAINANCE WORK PLAN FOR PINE SPP FOR FIVE YEARS

ESTABLISHMENT

Year of trees	Activity	Variation of Months	Cost Ugx(ha)	Remarks
Year 1	Site manager	All seasons	500,000per month	Per month. Supervising the day to day activities on the plantation to ensure quality of work and standard is achieved
	GPS survey and Compartmentation	In the beginning	50,000	Using a GPS to produce a clear site map
	Bush clearing	Dec -Mar	300,000	Cutting &piling
	Seedling booking	Jan -Feb		You are required to deposit a certain amount of money
	Land Preparation	Jan-Feb	200,000	Cutting trees & burning
	Lining out and pitting	Mar -Apr	170,000	Proper specimen
	Pre-plant Spray	Mar-Apr	250,000	Equipment, water and Chemicals inclusive(non- selective) this helps to suppress weeds for a longer period
	Planting	Mar-Apr	150,000	According to SPGS and NFA standards
	Patrol men	All seasons	250,000per month	To keep the plantation safe from fire outbreak & vermin
	Survival Count	Apr-May	10,000	Stock checking to ensure that the stocking is okay
Beating up	Apr-May	150,000	Replace seedlings that died in order to achieve the desired stock.	

MAINTANANCE

Year 2	Spot weeding	May -Jun	120,000	Create a clean spot of 1 metre radius from the tree to avoid competition for nutrients and light between trees and weeds.
	Slashing	Jun -Jul	150,000	To reduce competition of weeds and trees for nutrients and light
	Spot weeding	Sep-Oct	120,000	
	Slashing	Oct-Nov	150,000	
	Post -plant spray	Nov-Dec	270,000	Chemical weeding
	Fire line Maintenance	All seasons	300,000 per km	To improve plantation access and they act as firebreaks

CONTACT: Tel: 0781 886 588, email:planetgreenworldugltd@gmail.com, website:planetgreenworldltd.co.ug

PLANET GREEN WORLD U LTD

Conserving Environment and Financial Solutions

We offer all forest services, horticultural services, Agricultural farm supplies, Construction, Real Estate Financial Services.

FOREST ESTABLISHMENT AND MANTAINANCE WORK PLAN FOR PINE SPP FOR FIVE YEARS

Year of trees	Activity	Variation of Months	Cost Ugx(ha)	Remarks
	Spot weeding	Mar-Apr	120,000	
	Slashing	Apr-May	150,000	
	Post –plant spray	May -Jun	270,000	
	Slashing	Oct-Nov	150,000	
	Post-plant spray	Nov-Dec	270,000	
	Fire line Maintenance	All seasons	300,000 per km	
Year 3	Slashing	Apr-May	150,000	
	Fire line Maintenance	Sep-Oct	300,000	To improve plantation access and they act as firebreaks
	Slashing	Sep-Oct	150,000	
	Post plant spray	Nov-Dec	270,000	
	Fire line Maintenance	Dec-Jan	300,000 per km	
Year 4	Slashing	Apr-May	150,000	For easy access for other operations.
	Access pruning	May-Jun	120,000	Trimming off some shoots using shears in trees with multiple leaders leaving only one leader allowing the tree to grow in good shape
	Singling	May-Jun	100,000	
	Fire line Maintenance	Jun -Jul	300,000 per km	
	Slashing	Sep-Oct	150,000	
	Spraying	Nov-Dec	270,000	
	Fire line Maintenance	Nov –Dec	300,000 per km	
Year 5	Slashing	Apr-May	150,000	
	1 st Pruning	May -Jun	200,000	Cutting off branches from the lower trunk up to 2m high to al-low the stem to grow without producing large or loose knots
	Slashing	Sept –Oct	150,000	
	1 st Thinning	Oct-Nov	400,000	Marking and felling. the purpose is to increase the growing space and resources available to re-maining tree stands
	Spraying	Nov –Dec	270,000	
	Fire line Maintenance	All sea-sons	300,000 per km	

Our management plan as a guide to plantation operations has been up dated at an interval of 1 to 5 years with targeted objectives. It describes variation of costs for some activities based on Landscape and altitude of the area as well as Inflation. The activities include: - Bush clearing, Land preparation, Lining out and pitting, Pre – plant spray, Planting, Spot weeding, Slashing. Post plant spray, Thinning. GPS Survey. All these are negotiable

CONTACT: Tel: 0781 886 588, email:planetgreenworldugltd@gmail.com, website:planetgreenworldltd.co.ug



PLANET GREEN WORLD U LTD

Conserving Environment and Financial Solutions

Undertakes all forest services, horticultural services, Agricultural farm supplies, Construction, Real Estate Financial Services

FOREST ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTAINANCE FOR EUCALYPTUS SPP FOR FOUR YEARS

ESTABLISHMENT

Year of trees	Activity	Variation of Months	Cost Ugx(ha)	Remarks
Year 1	Site manager	All seasons	500,000 per month	Per month. Supervising the day to day activities on the plantation to ensure quality of work and standard is achieved
	GPS survey and Compartmentation	In the beginning	50,000	Using a GPS to produce a clear site map
	Bush clearing	Dec -Jan	300,000	Cutting & piling
	Seedling booking	Jan -Feb		You are required to deposit a certain amount of money
	Land Preparation	Jan-Feb	200,000	Cutting trees & burning
	Lining out and pitting	Mar -Apr	170,000	Proper specimen
	Pre-plant Spray	Mar-Apr	250,000	Equipment, water and Chemicals inclusive(non- selective) this helps to suppress weeds for a longer period
	Pre -plant termite control	Mar-Apr		
	Planting	Mar-Apr	150,000	According to SPGS and NFA standards
	Patrol men	All seasons	250,000per month	To keep the plantation safe from fire outbreak & vermin
	Survival Count	Apr-May	10,000	Stock checking to ensure that the stocking is okay
	Beating up	Apr-May	150,000	Replace seedlings that died in order to achieve the desired stock
	Spot weeding	May -June	120,000	Create a clean spot of 1 metre radius from the tree to avoid competition for nutrients and light between trees and weeds.
	Slashing	Jun -July	150,000	To reduce competition of weeds and trees for nutrients and light
	Post -plant spray	Jun -July	270,000	Chemical weeding
Post -plant termite control	Jun -July			

MAINTANANCE

CONTACT: Tel: 0781 886 588, email:planetgreenworldugltd@gmail.com, website:planetgreenworldltd.co.ug

PLANET GREEN WORLD U LTD

Conserving Environment and Financial Solutions

We offer all forest services, horticultural services, Agricultural farm supplies, Construction, Real Estate Financial Services.

FOREST ESTABLISHMENT AND MANTAINANCE FOR EUCALYPTUS SPP FOR FOUR YEARS

Year of trees	Activity	Variation of Months	Cost Ugx(ha)	Remarks
	Fire line Maintenance	All season	200,000 per km	To improve plantation access and they act as firebreaks
Year 2	Slashing	Apr-May	150,000	
	Acces pruning	May -Jun	120,000	For easy access to carry out other operations
	Post-plant spray	Sep-Oct	270,000	
	Fire line Maintenance	All seasons	200,000 per km	
Year 3	Slashing	Apr-May	150,000	
	Singling	May -Jun	270,000	Trimming off some shoots using shears in leaders allowing the tree to grow in good shape
	1 st Thinning	Oct-Nov	400,000	Marking and felling. The purpose is to increase the growing space and resources available to remaining tree stands
	Fire line Maintenance	All season	200,000 per km	
Year 4	Slashing	May -June	150,000	
	2 nd Pruning	June	120,000	Proper removal of 2nd layer of braches to produce knot free timber
	2 nd Thinning	Sep-Oct	400,000	To create space and reduce competition giving room to the remaining stand for better growth which attain more volume.
	Slashing	Oct-Nov	150,000	
	Fire line Maintenance	All season	200,000 per km	

NB.

If the area is flat, cost in planting varies according to the spacing as follows:- (a) 3X3 one pays 320,000 and (b) 2X2 one pays 400,000. When the area is sloppy, costs range from 400,000 and above for both spacing regimes. For spot weeding at 2X2 one pays 200,000.

Our management plan as a guide to plantation operations has been up dated at an interval of 1 to 4 years with targeted objectives. It describes variation of costs for some activities based on Landscape and altitude of the area as well as Inflation.

The activities include: - Bush clearing, Land preparation, Lining out and pitting, Pre –plant spray, Planting, Spot weeding, Slashing. Post plant spray, Thinning. GPS Survey. All these are negotiable

CONTACT: Tel: 0781 886 588, email:planetgreenworldugltd@gmail.com, website:planetgreenworldltd.co.ug

Bees: A Source Of Income In Commercial Forestry

Back ground

Commercial forestry planters do face many challenges in the process of raising and looking after trees from planning, to establishment, management and harvesting right up to marketing. It takes some long time to earn, yet one has to continuously spend money on various operations to keep the trees growing if one has to realize the best benefits from them. Because of the total investment required to run commercial forestry business and the long time it takes to earn from it, many planters are sometimes opt out of the venture. However, this can be reversed by introducing other short term based businesses like Bee Management which take a short time to earn money from.

Reasons for diversifying into Bee Keeping

These are some of the key reasons for bee management alongside commercial forestry;

- It requires little startup capital. One can begin with as few as two hives which cost ugshs 240,000. Bee hives are the most critical and expensive single item to buy.
- Planters already have plantations in which to place the bee hives to make a home for the bees at no extra cost.
- The business requires a few inputs like ripe bananas, sun flower plants plus very limited labor and supervision.
- Honey has many uses for humanity. That makes it easy to find market for it both nationally and internationally. A kilogram of each goes for above ushs 15,000 depending on where it is sold.
- It is easy to store honey without adding any chemicals for preservation, hence organic management is possible. That attracts huge demand.
- It can be an additional source of financing to the commercial forestry business, which requires some patience and may not address short term cash demands from Planters.

Who can delve into bee management?

Any planter under UTGA is legible provided that they have interest and are sensitized by Bee Management professionals. This is because it does not call for any complex procedures or skills.



Inputs required to start bee business

It requires one to have at least one bee hive to practically learn the bee management process, so that as one goes big, one has the knowledge and expertise about the business. Planters with a strong financial muscle can begin in a big way. Other inputs include establishment of some sun flower from where bees are attracted to colonize the bee hives. One needs some construction of stands where the bee hives can be placed.

Period it takes to harvest honey

After the bee hives are colonized, bees start manufacturing honey. They should be allowed at least six (6) months to produce enough honey for harvesting in the first round. Harvesting should be done scientifically so that the bees are not disrupted in their honey production process. Subsequent harvest of honey takes place every three (3) months.

Market for honey

The market for honey is available. It begins with the producer. One can consume it with the family to replace sugar in the home. That saves money and creates income. It can be sold locally in your village to other consumers. It can be traded to middle men who buy it for sale to other bigger markets. It can be sold to super markets and pharmaceutical companies or be exported to many foreign markets if the producers can develop capacity to produce the required quantities and quality for such global consumers. This is possible for UTGA growers working together.

To page 11

Could timber plantations boost forest conservation?

Benefits may extend beyond increased production



Well established eucalyptus plantation

PART 2

This is a continuation of 1st part of this article in previous newsletter. **MORE TIMBER, MORE TREES**

So what can we learn from this diversity of approaches and studies, apart from fancy theories and anecdotal evidence?

Although the evidence is not entirely straightforward, there is some convergence in findings. Most importantly, it seems that the assumption holds to some extent, however disturbing that might sound to those who oppose the expansion of tree plantations for their alleged (and at times, proven) flaws.

This is not to say that the 'plantation conservation benefit' theory is entirely rosy, but overall, it can be inferred from the research that an increased supply of wood plantations tends to reduce pressure on natural forests.

We should insist on this last point and further clarify: more plantations might indeed alleviate the pressure on natural forests by sharing the burden of production, but this refers to wood extraction only.

What does this mean? It means that less timber production from natural

forests, hence less degradation, also means less value (both recognized and marketed) for standing forests. This is a critical aspect to highlight. When natural forests are not used for wood extraction – which can be done in sustainable ways like using reduced impact-logging techniques they may actually be more vulnerable to clear-cutting. Generating value out of wood production may indeed become the most effective way to protect a tract of forest. In contrast, using forests solely for environmental services might not be enough to shield it against other land uses, particularly agriculture. So the trick here is not to remove one problem, only to create a bigger one.

SUCCESS FACTORS

This suggests that a number of parameters will have to be carefully considered before designing programs to develop plantations that will also promote conservation. Obviously, plantations should not be established on already forested areas (even though they can be much more productive per hectare, from just a few m³ up to 20-40 m³/ha), or

Press Digest

Bunyoro King sued for forest encroachment

The Omukama of Bunyoro-Kitara, Solomon Gafabusa, has been sued over alleged encroaching and degrading of Bugoma Central Forest Reserve in Hoima District. In the case filed before the High Court in Masindi, the National Forestry Authority (NFA) is accusing the King of fraudulent concealment when he allegedly stealthily applied for a freehold title on a part of the forest which was granted by the Uganda Land Commission (ULC). The Omukama is jointly sued with Hoima Sugar Limited and ULC

Environmentalists worry over growing e-waste

The increasing quantities of electronic waste (e-waste) is putting lives of Ugandans in danger and must be addressed as soon as possible, environmentalists have warned. During a two-day workshop at Colline Hotel, Mukono last week, organised by Ministry of Water and Environment under the project 'Improving Policies and Strategies for Sustainable Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Risk Management,' environmentalists said the country was lagging behind in managing e-waste. Lead and barium, could go through the soil and into the ground. The risk is to people and the different species of wildlife that rely on such water to survive.

To page 12

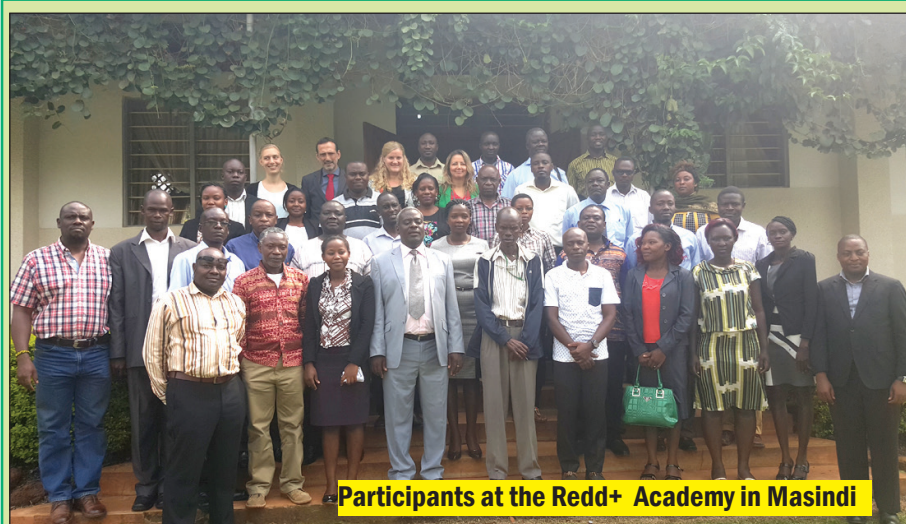
SPGS III

Ministry of Water and Environment and the Uganda Timber Growers' Association will work together on this to showcase and demonstrate the available technologies for downstream value addition.

On top of the 16million Euros provided by the EU, the FAO who are the project implementing partners are providing 40,000 Euros to the project while the Government of Uganda is allocating 878 million Uganda shillings.

This support is critical towards sustainable management of natural resources and improved land management in response to climate change. SPGS III is organized around four outcomes and 11 outputs to ensure efficiency in processing and utilizing Sawlog products such as transmission poles. Under the project, more commercial timber and bio-energy plantations will be established in districts especially along the cattle corridor with emphasis on increasing gender-sensitive awareness and participation of communities and smallholders. Other objectives include increased integration of research for development of plantations, processing and implementation of a coordinated approach towards commercial forestry value chain processes.

Beneficiaries of SPGSIII are small (15 ha ≤ 100 ha), medium (≥ 101 ha ≤ 500 ha) and large scale (≥ 501 ha ≤ 3000 ha) land holders while community groups will be supported with quality planting material (tree seedlings and technical advice.



Africa's first National REDD+ Academy Held In Uganda

alongside global and regional REDD+ advisors on each of the Academy's 12 modules.

National Experts walked participants through the REDD+ landscape in Uganda, from the carbon cycle and drivers of deforestation to approaches to finance and stakeholder engagement, NFMS and safeguards. The sessions deepened the understanding of REDD+ implementation in Uganda through the development of trained instructors and the creation of country-specific training resources. It is expected that Uganda will expand on the National REDD+ Academy and conduct additional capacity building training for REDD+ stakeholders.

These National REDD+ Academy events support the country in developing a pool of REDD+ experts and complement Uganda's five-year Norway-backed programme "Building capacity for REDD+ in East Africa for improved ecosystem health and for sus-

tainable livelihoods in Eastern Africa (REDD-EA)" which aims at incorporating REDD+ in university courses, conducting research and generating information on REDD+.

About the UN-REDD Programme in Uganda

Uganda's UN-REDD National Programme Document was signed in August 2015 with US\$ 1,798,670 of support until July 2017. The programme is implemented by the Government of Uganda with the technical support of the UN-REDD Programme along three key outcomes: (i) design a transformational national REDD+ strategy anchored in Uganda's development vision, planning and framework; (ii) design and set-up a national forest monitoring system with appropriate measuring, reporting and verification functions; and (iii) prepare and facilitate a subnational implementation of the REDD+ national strategy through an integrated landscape management approach.

Bee Keeping

Labor for the business

One requires basic skills in managing the business given the fact that no special care or treatment is needed. That basic knowledge can be acquired. UTGA has relations with institutions which can extend training to us and our managers about the bee management business.

Source and cost of Bee Hives

They can be ordered from one common source for all UTGA planters. This leads to reduction in cost of acquisition due to advantages arising from economies of scale. Each bee hive can be negotiated to go from Ushs 300,000 to Ugshs 120,000 for our members.

Way forward

UTGA has started to study the details that may be required to establish Bee Management as an additional source of finance to commercial forestry management. Some members have volunteered to take lead in piloting the project at their cost. We shall advise our members to embark on the business when we gather reasonable facts.

Conclusion

Commercial forestry is a very profitable venture. However, one takes time to realize the full benefits that accrue from it. Planters often get financially stressed because of cash inflow hiccups. Taking on a diversification strategy into bee management may be one viable approach to help enhance and reinforce commercial forestry development in UTGA and Uganda at large. This new venture may be considered by our members in the future.

Prices of wood/Timber /Poles around markets in Kampala

We will regularly provide a summary of prices for timber/wood/poles around Kampala to help Members do market trend analysis

Market	Type of wood	Specification	Price
Ndeeba	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*2*12	7,000
Ndeeba	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	6*2*12	8,500
Ndeeba	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*3*12	8,500
Ndeeba	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	3*2*12	4,500
Ndeeba	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*2*10	5,000
Ndeeba	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*3*10	6,000
Ndeeba	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	6*2*10	6,000
Ndeeba	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	3*2*10	3,200
Ndeeba	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*2*11	6,000
Ndeeba	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*3*11	8,000
Ndeeba	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	3*2*11	4,000
Ndeeba	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	6*2*11	8,000
Seeta	Pine-Machine cut	4*2*14	12,000
Seeta	Pine-Machine cut	4*3*14	14,000
Seeta	Pine-Machine cut	3*2*14	7,500
Seeta	Pine -Machine cut	6*2*14	14,000
Ndeeba	Pine-Machine cut	4*2*13	6,000
Ndeeba	Pine-Machine cut	6*2*13	9,000
Ndeeba	Pine-Machine cut	4*3*13	9,000
Ndeeba	Pine-Machine cut	3*2*13	4,000
Ndeeba	Pine-Machine cut	4*2*10	5,500
Ndeeba	Pine-Machine cut	6*2*10	7,500
Ndeeba	Pine-Machine cut	4*3*10	7,500
Ndeeba	Pine-Machine cut	3*2*10	3,700

Additional notes

There has been a general decline in the prices of wood at the end of July to Mid-August 2016. There seems to be more demand for Eucalyptus than pine.



UTGA growers sharing information at a member's plantation

Could Timber Plantations Boost Forest Conservation?

on areas where restoration could be given priority. Additionally, wood extraction in natural forest ecosystems cannot be dismissed on principle. Not only do forests provide high-quality wood products that plantations might not be able to yield (requiring super long rotations lasting dozens of years, if not centuries), but it can also be done in fairly sustainable ways (yet premiums for such sustainable techniques might not be high enough to encourage large-scale adoption).

Although providing value to forests via sustainable timber production would encourage policymakers to preserve them in the face of mounting pressure from agriculture, economic reasons alone aren't enough. Law enforcement is another necessary condition for the 'plantation conservation benefit' to materialize. Regardless of the amount of timber supplies produced from plantations, natural forests will unfortunately always be tempting to access for production given that their stocks are ready for use. Admittedly, with so many policies and conditions to be met in order for the 'plantation conservation benefit' to materialize, one may wonder if it is more theoretical than operational.

And the fact that plantations seem to be taking over, as is very clearly suggested by numbers showing substitution of production from forests to plantations, could conceal an ugly truth: this transi-

tion might actually be the consequence of declining production potential in natural forests.

Bear with me, as this is more than simply subtle nuance. If plantations are only responding to necessity with decreasing wood production potential in natural forests, and are filling the gap between supply and demand, then they should not be ascribed the responsibility for conservation resulting from the shift.

This matters because the benefits of plantation expansion might then only be for consumers enjoying sustained volumes of wood available on the market, and not for the sake of conserving tropical forests.

Yet for all of the weaknesses of the 'plantation conservation benefit' theory, and based on published evidence, one cannot deny that there is some truth in it. This is an encouragement to continue to design plantation programs that pay a great deal of attention to the mitigation of negative impacts, as well as investing in parallel programs to sustainably manage or protect remaining natural forests. After all, the expansion of timber plantations could prove to be a necessary condition (albeit insufficient if applied in isolation) to promote the conservation and the survival of natural forests.

This research forms part of the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry.

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, and news.

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 public 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.

Contact: Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA)
P.O.Box 75063 Kampala.
Tel: 256-785-343564
Email: info@utga.ug
Website: www.utga.ug

This newsletter is a product of UTGA with support from the Government of Norway



