

12th October 2018

No.53

Tallest & Largest

California's coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) stand out as some of the most impressive organisms on the planet.

One of three members of the sequoioideae sub 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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CHANDELIER
TREE

Height 265' - Diameter 21'
Mortimer A. L. 1904

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

From page 5

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.

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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

From page 6

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

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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

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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.

This publication is the work of FAO. Its Executive Summary is thus edited.

To be continued in next issue

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 information.

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.

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