

Sweden's stand @ the Dubai 2020 Expo

The Dubai Expo 2020 ended last week on 31/03/2022. The Swedish stand was one of the most impressive with its 'forest theme' dominated by wooden poles. Flanked by wooden trunks, the stall was a showcase of how Sweden is building smart cities, developing the next generation of travel, innovating life sciences and developing a bio-circular economy.

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The Swedish Pavilion at Expo 2020 in Dubai was situated in the Sustainability District. For the first time ever a sustainable building completely made of timber was erected in the UAE. Approximately 2,600 cubic meters of timber was used for the structure, half of it in the substructure. Every cubic meter of timber, weighing about half a tonne, contained carbon from almost 900 kg of CO² (and the O², the



Visitors at the stall included some from East Africa

Sweden @ the expo

oxygen, now in the atmosphere.)

A comparable structure in reinforced concrete would create a CO² footprint of around 1,200 tonnes. The net effect of "The Forest" as a timber building compared to a concrete structure is about 3,000 and 3,500 tonnes less carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Sustainable materials

To avoid concrete, which is very hard to reuse or recycle, the timber structure rested on a bed of vapour-tight foamglas, produced of mainly recycled glass. The waterproofing of the substructure was based on natural bitumen to avoid potentially harmful plastics, that end up as micro-plastics in the oceans. To avoid poisoning the soil and harming most insects, termite protection was based on borate and applied between the timber foundation and the waterproofing.

The timber structure was made of a combination of glulam and cross laminated timber (CLT) and all components were made of timber from managed forests. The 300 tree-trunks are naturally grown Swedish spruces where the bark has been removed. All stairs were made from huge pieces of solid CLT-elements while the bathrooms were prefabricated timber pods, fitted in Sweden, shipped, and lifted in place. The two largest bathrooms were also used as structural elements while the windows were made of finger-jointed wood and the glass facades had structural components of wood.

All timber components were connected with screws and brackets to allow dismantling and reassembly of the structure. The exterior walls, floors and ceilings were insulated with wood fibre.

The decking on the roof-top terraces used the same principles as natural petrified wood to increase the resistance to all kinds of deterioration, including flame retardant characteristics. All doors and the parquet, covering all floors were made out of wood while all timber products came from sustainable forestry.

The entire plot, including the exhibition space, was covered by locally supplied limestone in formats taken directly out of the quarry. The stone was laid in a sand bed with light weight aggregate filling.

The fencing of the exhibition space used Manila hemp ropes and 3-ply timber boards and the external sun shading was made of natural linen and wood-based viscose fibres, installed between the tree-trunks with ropes and oak laths.

Facts from the forest of Sweden

- 70 percent of Sweden's surface is covered by forest and consists of around 87 billion trees.
- Only 1% of trees in the Swedish forest is felled annually.
- For every tree harvested at least two new are planted.
- Every year, 380 million trees are planted in Sweden
- Almost 90 percent of Sweden's pulp and

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AGM for UTGA members

UTGA organised and held its 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) for its members on 10th March 2022. It was held at the Siver Springs Hotel in Bugolobi, Kampala. Running side by side with the AGM was a forest fair where exhibitors whose business is analogous to tree growing showcased goods and services that are relevant to the timber industry in Uganda.

The UTGA board led by the Chairman Mr Solomon Oketcho, having spent a year in office, were reporting 2021 performance and also presenting operating and financial plans for 2022.

All these were adopted by the members present at the AGM.



UTGA growers at the AGM



Nile Ply Ltd showcase a settee at the Forest Fair

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paper production is being exported.

- The ancient right of public access entitles people to pick berries, gather mushrooms, to camp and pursue outdoor recreational activities in the Swedish forests.
- There are 21,300 species in the Swedish forest with unique genes that are needed for the natural cycle.
- All waste products from the forest are burnt for heat and electricity or biological composition.

Osaka, Japan will host the next expo from 13 April to 13 October 2025.

Russian Ukraine war Impacting the Global wood Industry

On February 24, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin organized and initiated an invasion into Ukraine. Currently, Russian forces continue war efforts in Ukraine and the geopolitical situation across Europe has shifted with many trading partners placing sanctions and restrictions on Russian goods.

This continues to be a highly fluid situation, and dynamics on the ground are changing rapidly. While humanitarian implications are atop of minds, the invasion has also impacted manufacturing operations and trade flows across the globe. The regional pulp & paper industry is expecting to undergo periods of extreme volatility as a result since all Ukrainian pulp and paper companies have halted production. The military operations occurring throughout the country have led to a breakdown in logistics and supply chains and out of concern for the safety of employees, regional mills are temporarily closed. In addition to these developments, major players within the industry have also made announcements and modifications regarding the future of their operations in response to the conflict.

As a result of suspended operations, some trade partners may experience a shift in operations. Russian pulp and paper manufacturers exported a vast majority of their 2021 production to China, and India – the second leading importer. It is likely that China’s pulp and paper industry will experience considerable impacts as a result of Russia’s invasion and will potentially have to source those grades elsewhere. A decision has been taken by PEFC to classify Belarus and Russian products as “conflict



timber” and therefore ineligible for accredited certification. The trade ban will cause serious consequences for European market supply. According to official statistics, slightly less than 10% of the sawn softwood consumed in Europe in 2021 originated from Russia, Belarus

	Export value in 2021 (Billion US \$)	Change 2017-2021 (%)
Softwood lumber	5.8	24
Paper products	2.0	11
Wood panels	1.9	15
Wood pulp	1.3	19
Hardwood logs	0.5	15
Softwood logs	0.5	-52
Wood pellets	0.3	102
Total	12.2	24

Note. An estimated 40 per cent of exports were destined for China, while the remainder was predominantly shipped to European markets.

and Ukraine. In the hardwood sector, oak goods originating from Ukraine made up a significant quantity and shortages are therefore expected.

The wood product trade ban will negatively impact several critical industrial supply chains, for example, food and medicine, which are logistically based on wooden pallets. Many wood-based construction materials, such as birch plywood and sawn timber, will be very hard hit, which in turn could hamper the EU’s Green Deal push to decarbonise the built environment. Russia is the largest lumber exporter globally and ranks as the seventh biggest exporter of forest products worldwide. Forest products exports from Russia have increased rapidly in the past five years, led by softwood lumber and paper products (as shown in table).

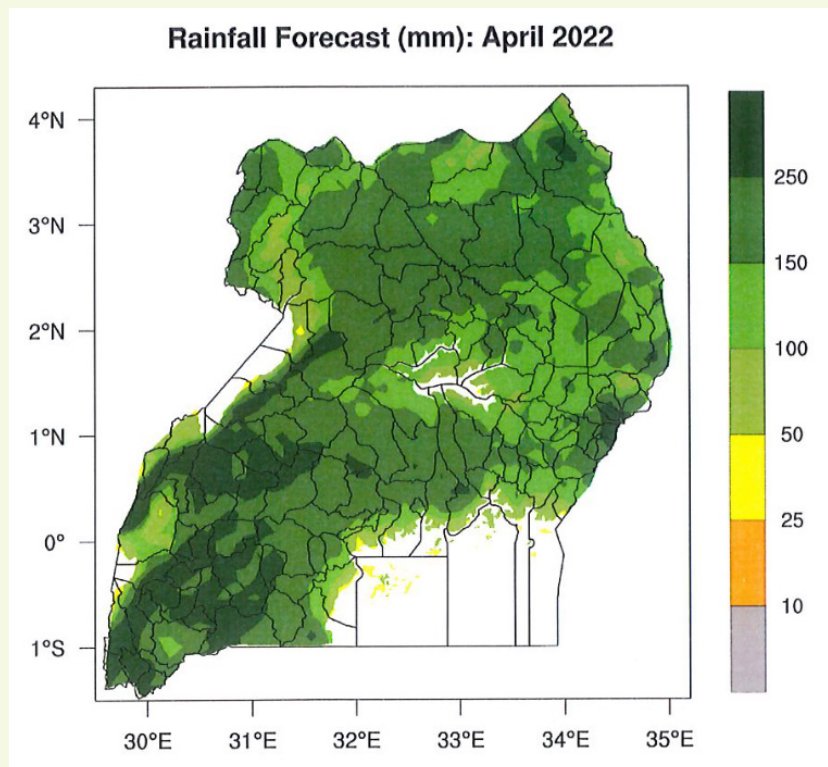
Uganda's Climate outlook for April 2022

A guide to tree growers

The rainfall outlook for April 2022 indicates that most parts of the country are expected to experience Near Normal to Above Normal (Enhanced) rainfall, characterised by thunderstorms, hailstorms and lightning over several parts of the country. The areas that are expected to receive above-normal rainfall include South-Western, Central, and some parts of Northern Uganda. However, some areas around Lake Victoria basin, Eastern and some parts of West Nile are expected to experience near normal (average) rainfall. It is important to note that areas around Eastern, Northern and parts of the cattle corridor in the Central region are likely to experience poor rainfall performance in the

first week of April.

The average temperature during the month of April 2022 is expected to vary between 24°C to 28°C over several parts of the northern sector of the country and for the southern sector to range between 14°C to 24°C. The most mountainous areas of the country will range between 8°C to 16°C.



Timing tree planting with onset of rains ensures survival

Rainfall is a basic necessity for the survival of the tree seedlings. In the months of March, April & May there is more rainfall throughout the country with a clear peak in April in Southern Uganda. The first planting season of the year is the busiest with many planters choosing to plant in this season.

The value of planting trees

- Trees reduce the amount of heat that reaches the ground by providing shade.
- Trees improve our air quality by filtering harmful pollutants
- Trees give off oxygen that we need to breathe.
- Trees reduce the amount of water runoff to reduce erosion, siltation and preventing floods.
- Many species of wildlife depend on trees for

habitat.

- Trees provide food, protection, and homes for many birds and mammals.

Trees are among the most marketable items on the world market with a high value attached to their products which include wood sawn in various sizes to form timber, bark for making garments for cultural festivals and the bi-products obtained from trees (saw dust) can be used to produce briquettes hence providing alternative source of energy.

This reduces the rate of deforestation in developing countries mitigating the effect of global warming. Medicinal components in trees can be used in treatment of disease and production of modern-day medicines.



2nd phase of restoration & boundary planting kicks off in West Bugwe CFR

Inspection of a *Vitex doniana* seedling planted in West Bugwe CFR

In a bid to showcase the importance of protecting and restoring of the natural and conservation areas side by side with establishing and maintaining of commercial tree plantations, UTGA undertook a restoration program in West Bugwe Central Forest Reserve in Busia District Eastern Uganda. This project is being implemented in partnership with the National Forestry Authority (NFA) and with the support of the Danish Forestry Extension (DFE).

The second phase of restoration started in October 2021 and was planned to cover part of the boundary line of West Bugwe CFR and planting of indigenous tree saplings in the degraded areas within the reserve.

The project covered an area of 56ha making a total of 159ha and trees planted include the following;

- *Prunus africana*
- *Melia azedarach*
- *Spathodea campanulate*
- *Albizia zygia*
- *Albizia coriaria*
- *Tamalindus indica*
- *Azizelia africana*
- *Markhamia lutea*
- *Vitex doniana*

PROGRESS

The restoration process included activities of;

1. Ground preparation

The area to be restored was prepared by lining out and pitting in preparation for the trees that were to be planted in the area.

2. Seedling sourcing

Eucalyptus seedlings and GC clones were picked from the UTGA nursery in Mityana district for boundary planting while the indigenous species were picked from multiple sources including the NFA Tree Seed Centre in Mukono and other private tree nurseries in Eastern Uganda.

3. Temporary nursery setup

The temporary/holding nursery was established along the Busia road to ease the transportation during planting. The seedlings were being given water and safely guarded from theft.

4. Planting

Before planting, lining out and pitting was done, the degraded areas in the reserve were replanted with tree species indigenous to the area.

- To increase on the rate of carbon stocking to mitigate the issue of global warming.

- To make a contribution to the micro climate of the Busia area.

- To restore the aesthetic value of the Natural Forest by replanting the degraded areas.

Eucalyptus Grandis and GC clones were also acquired to be used in boundary planting around the Central Forest Reserve, these were obtained from UTGA Nursery in Kiwawu, Mityana district.



Members of the committee at a prospective site for the woodmill facility

UTG-SACCO forms a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for value addition

UTG-SACCO has set up an SPV for purposes of promoting value addition. The SPV is registered in the name of UTG-WOOD MILL (SMC) Ltd and was fully incorporated with the Registrar of companies. The estimated cost of setting up the value addition business (SPV) is US \$ 2,000,000 and the EXCOM launched the sale of shares into the UTG-WOOD MILL (SMC) for the value addition. The EXCOM floated 54,000 shares for sale

to members at UGX 50,000 per share.

Ownership

The UTG-SACCO shall own 50% of the SPV meaning that all members of the SACCO have a stake in the SPV. Individual members shall own 25% by buying direct shares in the SPV while a co-investor who is expected to have experience/knowledge in manufacturing/Wood value addition shall own 25% of the shares.

A select committee led by the

Mr. Edward.K. Mupada toured a proposed 6-acre land for the value addition Factory/SPV in Luweero, along Kampala Gulu highway. which was considered a good site for the factory due to its proximity to the raw material. Members willing to invest in the UTG-Wood Mill can get more information by contacting Moses on 0776191414, or the Chairman of the SPV using edward.mupada@gmail.com or the UTGA General Manager.

A review of the Uganda’s Forest Policy and National Forest Plan

The Government of Uganda is in the process of reviewing the National Forest Policy and the Forest Plan in line with the requirement for periodic review of national policies and plans. As part of the development process, UTGA was identified as an important stakeholder with a critical role to play in contributing to the shaping of such public policy and plan. This study review of the existing forest policy and plan is aimed at highlighting gaps and providing recommendations

to the National Task Team at the Ministry of Water and Environment. NIRAS Group, an international multi-disciplinary consultancy firm with Nordic roots is supporting the Government of Uganda to undertake the review of the Uganda Forestry Policy (2001) and National Forest Plan (2012), and to develop a new Forestry Policy. NIRAS is reviewing performance, outcomes and results of the Forest Policy including the enabling and constraining factors that influenced delivery

(or non-delivery of specific aspects of the policy) and underlying political & economic drivers that influenced (positively or negatively) the achievement of the policy. This will lead to a revision of the Forest Policy, with a view of identifying key policy areas around forest governance, strengthened institutional framework (more effectively linking forest stakeholders vertically (central to local government) and horizontally (from forestry to non-forest sectors.

Theme: Enhancing Commercial Forestry Profitability and Restoration of Forest Cover



This year's Annual Workplan and Budget are based on the theme reflected above

MEMBERSHIP

Growth of membership; this is to enable members to acquire a stronger voice in lobbying for a better & working forest industry in Uganda.

- **Importation of seed;** good quality seed grows into good quality trees which facilitates better commercial gains for all players in the commercial forestry sector.
- **Restoration and protection of conservation areas;** benefits of restoration include improved air and water quality, climate change resilience & mitigation, carbon sequestration, job creation, biodiversity conservation, etc.
- **Resource mobilization;** for UTGA to function effectively it needs to mobilize stock, materials, staff, and other assets.
- **Plant supply;** UTGA nursery plans to produce seedlings of various tree species that include pine and GU7 clones for sale at affordable prices to members.
- **Timber exports lobby;** This is to make a case for increasing the market sphere for timber coming out of Uganda's plantation which in turn will lead to better prices realized by growers.

- **Training in wood processing and tool handling skills;** this is to equip members with skills in value addition which they can apply at their plantations, in their various clusters.
- **Communication and outreach activities;** this involves visiting members' enterprises and gathering feedback on various forestry practices that may require group solutions.
- **Technical Assistance Services;** this involves hands on training of players in the value chain by forestry technicians.
- **Certification;** This promotes responsible forest management of the enterprise.
- **Cluster development;** will create an opportunity for members to interact and share ideas on the way forward for forestry in their region.
- **Staff development;** UTGA will employ new staff to handle its expanding work portfolio.
- **Traceability;** Work to install a tracking system will help legality, formality and transparency in the market place.
- **Information management system;** Nothing happens without information and so work to operationalise a forest management information system is priority.

UTGA News is a digital newsletter for the Uganda Timber Growers Association. It is published quarterly to briefly summarize forestry-related publications, projects, activities, news and forestry information. Do you have news, content, or ideas that you want to share in upcoming newsletters? Please send us your articles, views on your organization, partnerships, projects, group, field stories, successes, challenges, fact sheets, papers, books, guides

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