

SAWLOG PRODUCTION GRANT SCHEME



NEWS OF UGANDA'S COMMERCIAL TREE PLANTING FUND FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

NO. 15 MAY - JUNE 2007



➤ **Ugandan tree growers visit South Africa & Swaziland**

SEED UPDATE

We hope by now that you are regularly reading this feature which is 'fixed' on page 2 of each SPGS Newsletter. It contains the latest situation on **commercial** seed supply in the country. Before we compile the article, we always contact the National Tree Seed Centre (NTSC) at Namanve, to bring you the very latest news on the commercial tree seed front.

PCH: Both the SPGS and the NTSC have been offered seed from FPQ's seed orchards in Queensland - 52 and 50 kgs respectively. This should be in Uganda in May: its exact price is not yet known but will probably be around US\$ 2M per kg with an expected 35,000 seedlings per kg. The SPGS seed is reserved for our clients (see article page 3). There is a possibility of more being made available later this year too: we are talking to UTGA to see what their members' needs are. NTSC is also expecting significant quantities of the Brazilian PCH in May/June too (350 kgs total). Its expected price is around US\$ 1M/kg but the germination is usually significantly lower than the Australian PCH seed: check with the NTSC before you buy.

P. oocarpa: please note that the SPGS does **not** support the planting of locally collected *P. oocarpa* seed. It is producing some very poor quality plantations. Until we find better sources of seed, most of you are better off planting improved PCH.

E. grandis: 1 kg of South African seed orchard seed is available at NTSC. Remember though that this is clean seed and should yield 2M seedlings per kg if carefully sown. Planting EG for timber at say, 3.0 x 2.5m (1333 sph) plus 10% for beating up - is ca. 1500 sph. Each gramme of clean seed should thus yield sufficient seedlings for 1.3 ha (10 gms = 13.3 ha etc.). The seed is cleaned because the main growers in South Africa have automated sowing machines.

Other species: Musizi is available at NTSC. The SPGS is still hoping to import various research seedlots, including improved Hoop pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*): we have been delayed, however, by protracted administrative procedures. For those of you interested in improved Teak (*Tectona grandis*) seed, we hope also to have some good news for you soon. As they say - watch this space!

OVER TO YOU.....



We have started to receive a steady stream of feedback and would like to share it with you since some of the comments are very informative. We encourage others to write in and share experiences. We start with a recent communiqué from Karl Solberg from Norway:

First of all thank you very much for a very practical and useful SPGS News Bulletin. I hereby express my heartfelt appreciation for your effort to inform SPGS's customers to achieve best possible result. It is unique as far as I know, and it creates encouragement.

In Issue No. 13 (Jan- Feb 2007), Celia Nalwadda writes about species and provenance trials in SPGS. This is interesting, but it is not the first time R & D has been given priority. In the 1960's and 70's, the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organisation (EAAFRO), under East African Community (EAC), carried out extensive species and provenance research in all three East African countries, including Uganda. To my knowledge, EAAFRO was a very serious organisation with many competent researchers, and the organisation made a lot of fundamental and applied research benefiting the three countries.

In 1973 - 1976 I was appointed by EAC as a young researcher with responsibility for an EAAFRO's regional forestry research programme in Tanzania, but since this was regional, I kept an eye to the comparable research work at Katugo in Uganda and Gedde in Kenya as well. Various technical reports were written on this work. It is a traditional and good rule for researchers that prior to embarking on a new programme to summarise previous research in the same or

similar fields to save time and avoid inventing the wheel again.

If I am not wrong regarding the species, and as an example, in Usambara mountains of Tanzania, Lushoto, Bushbuck Valley, a very impressive stand of *Eucalyptus microcorys* was growing there. The average tree height was in the 1970's above 70 metres with fantastic nice looking trees. Another example is from the Abardere mountains in Kenya where a stand of *Eucalyptus regnans* showed heights above 80 metres. More impressive exotic species in East Africa would be difficult to find, I believe. There is hardly any systematic record of promising species and stands of tree species in East Africa, but elderly forest researchers in East Africa possess a lot of knowledge and wisdom in this respect.

Up to the breakdown of EAC in 1976/77, EAAFRO was in charge of the forestry research in East Africa in cooperation with the participating countries. Searching the remaining EAAFRO archives in Kenya - I am sure they are still there with the Forestry Research station at Muguga, might be useful in this respect. In Uganda the former Senior Conservator Research Mr. P.K. Karani is probably the one who knows most about what has been carried out of forestry research in Uganda.

Karl is currently Chairman of the Norwegian Afforestation Group, who have just started planting commercially in Lira. Interestingly, Peter Karani has recently been commissioned by the SPGS to summarize the past species research in Uganda.

Cover Photo:

This stunning 50-yr old Pinus taeda stand certainly made a big impression on the SPGS Team! It is at Klipkraal, Global Forest Products, near Sabie.

SPGS Update



By Allan Amumpe & Paul Jacovelli

Many planters are calling complaining about the rains not coming. We will put in some pleas to the Rainmaker on your behalf but whilst we wait, we have had a busy few months to tell you about. We even need to expand this issue to 20 pages so that we could share with readers the fantastic experiences from the tours to South Africa and Swaziland.

Reflecting back at SPGS progress from phase one (2004 – 2006), the scheme paid 4,854 hectares for 1st payment, 4,572 (2nd) and 4,477 (3rd). This excludes community support which estimated at over 200 hectares for all the SPGS supported community planting across the country during the phase. This means that the scheme met its targets of subsidizing 5000 ha. However, you will notice variation in the payments for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Payments had to be withheld from some of our (unfortunate) planters who had



Watema Lapinat (Community Program Co-ordinator - 3rd from right) shows members of the SPGS Steering Committee their termite damaged E. camuldulensis planting. This Gulu community has decided to cut down all the trees and replant the area with Pines, which will be provided by the SPGS.

their planting destroyed through encroachment and a few who also didn't maintain their crops according to SPGS standards. But generally, the scheme registered tremendous progress and has aroused great interest and substantially raised standards.

At the beginning of the April '07, the Sawlog Steering Committee crossed the Karuma Bridge to see for themselves the SPGS efforts in Northern Uganda. Six SPGS planters were visited and the Committee also saw two communities that had been identified for support by the SPGS this season. During the meeting, two districts were identified for further support – namely, Gulu and Kabarole. The SPGS will be contacting key people in these districts (especially their DFOs) in order to arrange for meeting and explore the opportunities of partnership with SPGS.

Following the last clients meeting covering the areas of Mukono,

Mayuge and Jinja, the SPGS is organizing a clients meeting focusing on the Hoima planters. As usual time for departure will be early morning on 16th May 2007 (07.45 at SPGS office). If you would like to join the rest of the planters in learning and sharing of experiences, please make your reservation with the SPGS office two weeks before the 16th. See the back page for more details.

In order to ensure high professional standards of plantation establishment and keep momentum of improving silvicultural standards in the country on track, the SPGS is organising another if its very practical, 4-day plantation training courses, beginning on 28th May 2007. The venue will be around Jinja (Jinja town for accommodation). For the planters who have not participated in our training sessions, this is your chance to send your staff or yourselves for this course in order to improve your skills. As usual, the SPGS does not charge participants for the training, but they who do need to meet their costs of transport to and from Jinja, accommodation and meals.

As we promised in the last newsletter, we have been out inspecting clients under the bridging phase. We made a first trip to Kanungu in SW Uganda, where 3 new clients have started planting. Bric reported that the roads were even steeper than those of Mafuga in Kabale. Just as well then that one of the groups in South Africa saw a cable logging operation in the hills of the Eastern Cape.

Depending on whether you read magazines front to back or (as is often the case) in reverse, you might have read on page 2 that we have received a Pine seed offer from Australian colleagues for SPGS planters. This should be in the country in early May 2007, ready for the next planting season (Sept–Oct.'07). We urge all those who would like to get a share of this superior Australian seed to write to the SPGS indicating their requirements. It shall be on a first come, first served basis but limited to 3 kgs per client so that we are not accused of favouritism!

Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA) had two successful meetings during March, where they announced that 17 members were full paid up. The meeting resolved that by end May 07, they would have recruited more than 50 members. SPGS would like to encourage all her clients to join the UTGA club to improve your voice in promoting timber investment in the country.

And finally, the main news in this issue is about the safaris to South Africa and Swaziland. Those that went clearly gained a huge amount from their experiences. We are extremely grateful to the hosts from the various companies who really went out of their way to show the Ugandans what they would benefit from most. Our job would not be anywhere near completed, however, if we did not ensure that the lessons learned were passed on to those not fortunate enough to have gone on the trip. So settle back in a comfy chair, enjoy the read and also the many excellent pictures taken by the participants.



SOUTHERN AFRICA SAFARI



Ray Kinsey (Technology Transfer Manager, Mondi Business Paper) showing the group what a healthy clonal Eucalypt looks like at Mondi's enormous clonal nursery in Kwambonambi, KZN.

The sheer scale of the commercial forestry sector impressed everybody, with both groups being exposed to a wide range of operations on both a large and small scale. From the reactions of all those on the tour, the trip was undoubtedly a huge success. This is due to a large extent to the tremendous hospitality of our hosts and our special thanks go to those listed below (we sincerely hope to see you in Uganda sometime!):

Bric's group:

PG Bison (Ugie): Dave Butt, Eddie Greenland, Johannes

van Rooyen, John Filmer, John Griffiths, Helen Lechmere-Oertel, Thembi Mathagu & Lenox Rodolo.

Hans Merensky (Langeni) - Fred Basset & Johan van Eerden.

Sappi: Konrad Buchler (Richmond nursery), Francois Jansen & Marius Davids (both Ixopo), Gareth Nel (Highflats) & Bheki Gumede (Project Grow).

NCT Durban Woodchips - Ferdie Brauckmann.

Paul's group:

Global Forest Products (Sabie): Dave Mallock-Brown & Simon McNamara.

Mondi: Ray Kinsey (Kwambonambi) & Tony Hulett (Nelspruit).

Mondi Peak Timbers (Swaziland): Titus Dlamini & Derrick Makashwa.

Sappi: Mandla Dlamini, Edward Kwesa & Mike Manyatsi (Usutu Pulp Co., Swaziland); Carl van Loggerenberg (Project Grow, KZN).

Shiselweni Forestry Co. (TWK), (Swaziland) - Solomon Mabusa, Vusi Dlamini & Patrick Dlamini.

Nseleni Nursery (KZN): William Davidson (Jnr) & Mark Doherty.

Zenith Estates: William Davidson (Snr).

And not forgetting the **Zululand Fire Protection Services** for showing us their impressive monitoring set-up and the **Institute of Commercial Forestry Research** (for letting us attend their most useful Sabie Research Field Day).

This year's SPGS grand Southern tour showed just how the interest in commercial forestry is growing in Uganda. Our SPGS clients requested last year that we should offer them more places on such trips and so we duly obliged. We did our sums and found our budget for the trip could stretch to offering a 60% subsidy for 10 private growers, even if this meant splitting into two groups. The places were quickly snapped up (though one withdrew late on). In addition to the 9 growers, the remaining 3 SPGS Plantation officers who haven't been before also went along and last but not least, there was place for a community planting representative too.

After flying together to Johannesburg, the two groups then went their separate ways: Bric's group flew onto Nelson Mandela's birthplace, Mthatha in the Eastern Cape. They then headed into southern Kwa-Zulu Natal (KZN), around the hills close to Lesotho and the Drakensburg mountains and finally to Durban on the KZN coast. Paul's group meanwhile hit the road in their hired minibus and headed to the huge pine area around Sabie (Mpululanga, some 300 kms East of Jo'Burg). They later passed through the Kingdom of Swaziland and onto the big eucalypt region of coastal KZN (around Richards Bay). After 12 days the longing for matoke and family made everyone eager to return home to digest everything that they had seen and heard.

In their own words....

The next 9 pages are dedicated to the reflections (and pictures) of those who went to South Africa and Swaziland. Part of the deal was that we asked for a short report on their return to Uganda. We have selected the best bits from each and put them (loosely) in a logical order – from planning through to utilisation.

We start with Thaddeus Businge.

The Republic of South Africa is the leading country in plantation forestry in Africa, with nearly 1.4 million hectares of land under forest plantations. The major species grown are pines (mainly *Pinus patula* and *P. elliottii*) and various gum (eucalypt) species. The plantations are dominated by a few very large private companies but there are many smaller owners too. All are well maintained though and all operations – planting, weed control, pruning, thinning and harvesting – are carried out to a high standard and on time. Research is permanently going on to improve tree growth and wood quality. As a result, the crop yields are high and plantation owners earn quite a fortune from their trees.

The main reason why plantations in South Africa are doing so well is that these people plan professionally. Planning involves careful budgeting since the forest operations have monetary attachment. Returns from the investment are also projected

enabling them to determine the feasibility of the business. Mondi, for example plans 30 years ahead for their 323,000 hectares of land under plantation. This plan is broken down to seven years plans (the tree rotation for pulpwood), then to one year (Annual Plan of Operations) and finally to daily work programmes.

All the big companies use a specialized computer programme to help them with this planning (many are using one called Micro Forest – developed in South Africa). Their planning takes into consideration the area of the plantation and individual compartments so that all operations are included and done on time – e.g. road building and maintenance, planting, weed control, fire protection, pruning, thinning and harvesting. All these operations are then allocated funds to ensure the smooth running of the plantations. Careful surveying and compartmentalization were done before forest establishment and this greatly assists for planning.



Titus Dlamini (Forest Manager, Peak Timbers, Swaziland) with his management team and contractors, informing the SPGS group about their estate and in particular how they plan their operations.

- **Peak Timbers, Swaziland:** *E. grandis* for sawlogs: thin @ years 4 (to 750 sph), 7 (to 500sph) and 10 (325 sph); prune @ years 1.5 (to 2.5m height), 2-2.5 (to 5m) & 3-4 (7.5m); final rotation 18 years.
- **Usutu Pulp Co., Swaziland:** *P. patula* for pulpwood: plant at 1330 or 1770sph (higher stocking on more productive sites); no thinning; one prune for access only to 1.8m; clear fell at 16 years.

The forest companies and individuals plan for sustainability so that they have harvestable timber all year round. They also plant the clearfelled areas as soon after harvesting as possible. Often they have to plant into the dry season, in which case they use a stock absorber for moisture retention. Other activities of weed control and fire protection are taken very seriously too and therefore carefully planned for.

An important lesson is that forestry planning in South Africa is done in a flexible manner so as to accommodate any changes or additions that may arise from time to time. It is also done based on the financial position of the company or individual. This ensures that they plant only what they can manage to maintain and improve. Their planning also aims at expanding their plantations so as to produce more timber in future as the future timber demand is expected to be much higher than it is today.

The forest companies in Southern Africa plan for their markets so they know whether they are targeting the sawlog or pulp market and they know the quality and sizes required. This helps to determine their species choice, the silvicultural operations of pruning and thinning and the treerotation. Examples of two contrasting silvicultural regimes we saw are as follows:



Ray Kinsey (Mondi BP) explaining the incredible technology that is crammed into the control centre of the Zululand Fire Protection Service in Kwambonambi. Remotely controlled cameras watch day and night for smoke over some 80,000 ha of plantations. Members (growers) subscribe to this privately run business.



SILVICULTURE: The art and science of growing trees.

The next 3 pages cover the various silvicultural operations seen during the trip. Starting logically with nursery production, it covers planting, pruning, thinning and fire protection. The words are those of *Robert Nabanyumya, Jimmy Obaa, Sarah Nassuuna, Josephine Katushabe, and Zainabu Kakungulu.*

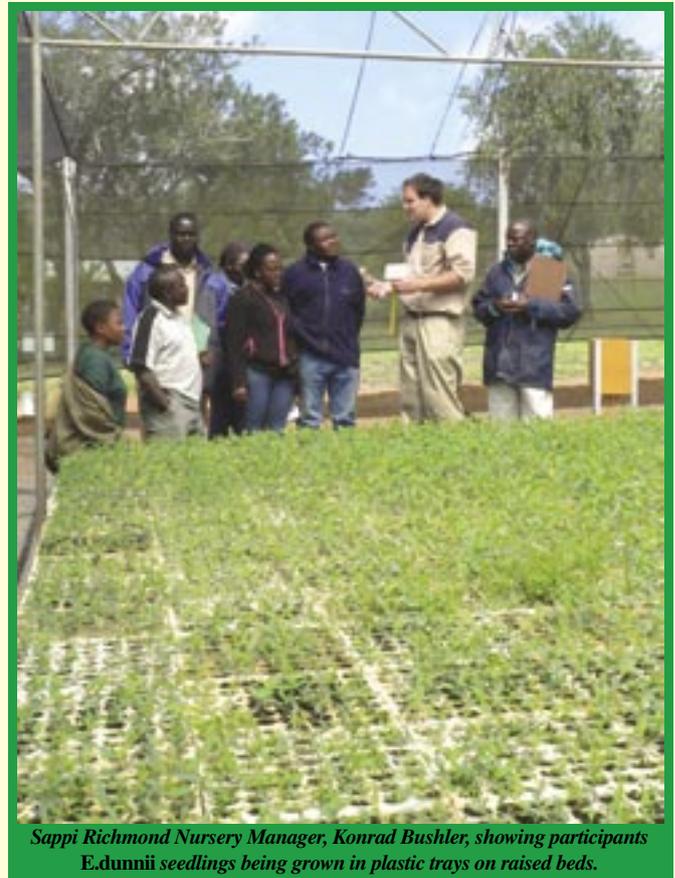
PLANT PRODUCTION

Robert: We saw some very large seedling and clonal nurseries during our trip. Most plant production in South Africa and Swaziland is now carried out in large, centralized nurseries and they are increasingly moving towards clones (rooted cuttings) of eucalypts and pines too. Small growers mostly buy from these bigger nurseries.

The large nurseries we visited were GFP in Sabie (predominantly seedlings and produces around 10 million per year); Mondi in Kwambonambi (producing over 12 M rooted cuttings per year) and Usutu in Swaziland (ca.6M seedlings). We also saw a smaller clonal nursery (Nseleni, Kwambonambi) and small 'holding' nurseries at Shiselweni Forestry Company and Peak Timbers in Swaziland. Nearly all use plastic trays with 128 or 98 inserts or tubes per tray. None of the nurseries use soil. The seedling nurseries use composted pine bark, whilst the clonal nurseries generally use a mix of vermiculite and coco-peat.

At GFP we saw how they have machines that automatically sow the seed after pretreatment (soaking in warm water for 24 hours) which improves germination of some pine species. From sowing, the seeds are transferred (for one week) to a germination room which has a controlled temperature of 27°C. From here the trays are transferred to the sheltered nursery beds where controlled watering and fertigation (liquid fertilizers applied through the irrigation system) is undertaken and growth is monitored. The trays are supported on 'tables' with wires or metal supports so that no root pruning is needed. When the seedlings are stronger, they are moved to tables under full sun before transporting to the field for planting out. The transportation is done with minimum stress to the seedling by using the trays themselves and in specifically designed well sheltered vehicles.

Breeding and clone programmes in Mondi have been in existence for 30 years and huge efforts are being ploughed into research as part of a genetic improvement strategy. Cloning has improved tree production in South Africa tremendously. This is mainly in four areas: genetics, propagation, biotechnology and fibre quality.



Sappi Richmond Nursery Manager, Konrad Bushler, showing participants E.dunnii seedlings being grown in plastic trays on raised beds.

Mondi's clonal nursery was first established in 1983 with the first clones being felled in 1994. They have been able to reduce rotation from 10 to 7.5 years and increased the yield (MAI) from 10 to 22 tons per ha per year!!!! Site species matching is now at clone to soil type level – getting more and more precise.

LAND PREPARATION & PLANTING

Josephine: The methods of land preparation and planting are irrespective of the final product and species being grown. The land preparation method depends on company policy: some opt for burning while others prefer to keep the crop residues as natural fertilizer. We saw one of Mondi's sites that had just been planted and where the residues greatly reduce the soil's surface temperature. This would definitely lead to greater survival of the trees. Emphasis is placed on planting to the right depth (certainly deeper than we plant in Uganda).

Robert: Maximum care is taken in planting including the use of the planting gel (e.g AquaSoil) or AquaSorb). It was emphasized here that the most important thing in commercial tree farming is silviculture with the notion: **the right tree + the right site = good results.**



A contractor's labour spraying weeds with glyphosate in a Pinus patula stand at Global Forest Products, Sabie. Note the protective clothing and orderly working manner: good training and close supervision are the keys to success. The operation takes 2MDs/ha.

WEED CONTROL & FERTILISING

Sarah: The land has to be pre-plant sprayed before planting. All planting is into weed-free areas. Weed control was often 100% especially with *Eucalyptus*. We should try as much as possible to pre-plant spray in Uganda. I made a commitment with the SPGS members in my group that my company (Busoga Forestry Co.) will be the demonstration centre for 100% weed-free Eucalyptus! I learnt that fertiliser application is a must for *Eucalyptus* too. Sappi were applying 60gms DAP (diammonium phosphate) two weeks after planting. We should also adopt that policy in order to get uniform and fast growing plantations.

Robert: weed control in all the places we visited was considered critical. In fact it appears that there is zero tolerance for weeds. The weed control is by herbicides – mainly glyphosate – and applied pre-plant and post-plant.

FIRE PROTECTION

Josephine: Fire protection is taken very seriously with several measures taken both to prevent and control fire outbreaks. The fire control systems are mechanized and (at least in KZN) computerized. We even saw a fire control centre in Kwambonambi that monitors remote cameras overlooking 80,000 ha of plantations.

Sarah: Fires are a major threat to plantation forests in South Africa: we saw where PG Bison had recently lost 5,000ha of plantation which had to be all replanted. The company's contractors also do the fire fighting but often with equipment belonging to the company. We saw everywhere Fire Danger Index boards as well as posters and signs warning people about the dangers of fires.

Jimmy: SA's Forest Fire Act of 1998 states that landowners must prepare fire breaks on their side of their boundaries if there is a reasonable risk of fires.

They must also have equipment, protective clothing and trained personnel for extinguishing fires. The main causes of fires in their plantations are honey-hunters but some are caused by 'own burning' – when controlled fires escape. During dangerous periods, watchmen are on duty from fire towers built on high ground. Preventing fire from destroying your trees is a prerequisite if one is to succeed in this long-term investment.

SOUTH AFRICA FORESTRY FACTS

There are 1.4M ha of commercial forest plantations in SA. The plantations are dominated by pines, eucalypts and Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*). 76% of the plantations are privately owned and 80% are internationally certified (FSC or ISO 14001).

Forestry makes a major contribution to SA's economy: the formal commercial forest sector contributes 2% to national GDP & accounts for 9% of agricultural output and 8% of manufacturing output. It contributes R6B p.a. to SA's forex earnings. Forestry directly employs 120,000 in SA.

PRUNING & THINNING

Robert: Pruning is important to ensure quality of the wood, especially for sawlogs. Pruning of pines in SA was being done up to 10m but now (since 2001) is being done to around 7m. At GFP, the pine pruning is done in 3 stages or 'lifts' – 1st at 5 years to 2.5m; 2nd at 7 yrs to 5m; the 3rd at 10 yrs to 7m. The operation is best carried out in the drier, Winter months.

Josephine: The plantation is thinned if the objective is sawlog production. Thinning is done in series, called the thinning regime. The final crop stands at 350 stems per hectare and the

trees are of big size. Thinning applies to both eucalypts and pines if grown for timber: no thinning is required for trees grown for pulp.

Sarah: pruning was excellently done in PG Bison and Singisi forests that were growing pines for sawlogs and veneer logs. These people can afford to prune over 100,000 ha and yet we cannot even prune the little we have planted!

ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH & SAFETY

Zainabu: Environmental management is a major component of plantation forestry in South Africa. The environment is accorded as much value as the plantations; for instance, one of the companies we visited (PG Bison) employs a full time environment officer to monitor and ensure that all activities are done in an environmentally friendly manner. This includes open area management, protection of rock lines, heritage sites and wetlands. The biggest challenge noted was infield spills of fuels. The company has an education centre at Kulanathi where educational training and environmental protection is carried out and community sensitisation on environmental protection.

Health and safety of the employees is one of the issues of critical importance to the forestry industry in South Africa. Each worker is equipped with appropriate safety equipment depending on the task performed. The team in the factory had their overalls on, the head gears and hand gloves. NOSA grades the health and safety precautions taken by a company. Stars are awarded depending on the effort put into environmental protection and two of the companies visited (PG Bison and Singizi) had 4 and 5 stars respectively, which is an excellent performance.

The great lesson we can learn for plantation forestry in Uganda is that we need to practice forestry in a sustainable manner but at the same time, protect the environment and also consider the socio-economic impact of forestry activities. We learnt the relationship between labour



PG Bison Silviculture Manager at Ugie, Eddie Greenland, shows off a recently pruned Pinus greggii (Southern provenance) stand. In foreground is a fire tracer belt, used to protect trees when burning fire lines.

productivity and workers welfare. All workers are provided with appropriate safety equipment to avoid accidents during working hours. At sawmills and construction sites, there is a standby emergency medical team and first aid providers in case of accidents. Workers in a good state of health and nutrition are likely to be more productive.

SWAZILAND FORESTRY FACTS

There are 135,000 ha of commercial forest plantations in SD. The plantations are dominated by *P. patula*, *E. grandis* and Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*). They are all privately owned and nearly all are FSC certified.

Forestry and related processing industry contributes ca.15% to SD's GDP and employs 8,000 people, which is 12% of total employment.

Editor's note:

As you probably imagine, there was so much of interest in this trip that we could not include everything in one Newsletter (even by expanding the current issue to 20 pages!). Consequently, we will include in the next issue (No. 16) more on: the contracting business in SA (by Kai Windhorst); lessons from the NCT Forest Owners Cooperative (Florence Nangendo) and Paul Jacovelli's reflections of what he saw as the key issues of relevance to Uganda (including clonal forestry and the importance of R&D).



Robert Nabanyumya just couldn't resist jumping onto this superb new fire tender at Mondi. Kwambonambi, to try out its water cannon. Fire is the major threat to plantations throughout these parts of Southern Africa which have a long dry season.

PHOTO GALLERY



Bric's group: L-R: Zainab Kakungulu and Celia Nalwadda (both SPGS), Jimmy Obaa, Mnason Tweheyo, Sarah Nassuuna, Charles Baguma, Shadrach Kajura (all private Ugandan planters) and Bric Miligan (SPGS).



Paul's group (plus our GFP hosts): front row: Dave Malloch-Brown (GFP), Florence Nangendo (Ug planter), Jean Vianney Besesa (the Ugandan abroad!), Paul Jacovelli (SPGS). Back row: Kai Windhorst (Global Woods, Kikonda), Thadeus Businge (SPGS), Robert Nabamyumya (Ug planter), Ssekyawa Mohammed (Ug planter), Simon McNamara (GFP) & Josephine Katusabe (Ug planter).



William Davidson (Snr!) tells the group about his 400 ha farm and especially about the NCT Forestry Cooperative Ltd., which greatly assists private growers in the region.



PG Bison's Harvesting Manager, Johannes van Royen, (rt.) and Bric describe the skidder tractor used to drag thinnings from the plantation to the roadside. Next to Celia is John Filmer, the Silviculture Manager.



Eddie Greenland, PG Bison's Silviculture Manager (bending over) takes participants through a newly planted *E. dunnii* plantation at Ugie. Note burnt trash lines left after fire clearance operation.

PHOTO GALLERY



*The dramatic landscape of Peak Timbers Ltd., in Pigg's Peak, Swaziland. A recent fire of >1,000 ha lead to the salvage harvesting of the young *E. grandis* crop, most of which was being sold for pulp. They were busy replanting the area as we visited (using AquaSoil).*



*A lady planting *E.dunnii* seedlings using Aqua soil mixture (in the white container) at Sappi's Umkomaas plantation. Note the specially designed planting hoe.*



**E. dunnii* seedlings rooted in a pine bark mixture Sappi's Richmond Nursery.*

PHOTO GALLERY



Like all the commercial companies we visited, the policy with Eucalypt plantings is zero weeds. This was an 8 month old GU (E. grandis x E. urophylla) crop of Sappi, Kwambonambi.

1.5 yr old Pinus elliottii at Shiseleweni Forestry Co., Swaziland: the uniformity and thorough weed control impressed us greatly.



We were lucky to see this highly mechanized thinning operation in progress at Peak Timbers, Swaziland. This was the 3rd and final thinning of E. grandis at 10 years (to ca.325 tree/ha): the planned rotation is 18 years.

PHOTO GALLERY



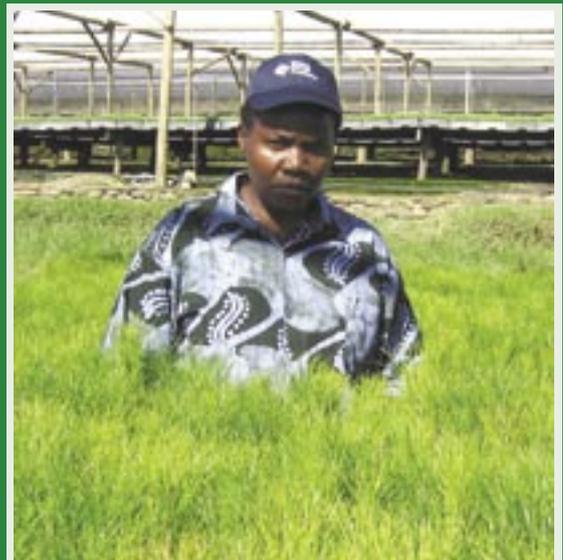
Bric's group visited the Mandela museum in his home town of Mthatha in the Eastern Cape (the former Transkei).



Robert and Mohammed were obviously impressed with the growth of these 4-yr old hybrid Eucalypts at William Davidsons' private farm near Kwambonambi.



Paul holding a Eucalypt stem about to be converted into cuttings at Nseleni nursery, Kwambonambi.



Florence in a sea of pine seedlings.



The delight of some at seeing the sea for the first time was clear to see.



The Team smartening themselves up at Jo'Burg airport before heading home!



PEOPLE POWER: Community Involvement in South African Forestry

By Mohamed Sekyewa & Celia Nalwadda

Mohammed writes: "He who has never traveled anywhere has only praises for his mother as the best cook". In other words "he who is less traveled is less informed". Our group was 7 jovial forest growers had a guided tour lead by Paul. Our first encounter was with the Global Forest Products at Sabie, where we beautiful scenery of a well planned and well set huge expanse of forest plantation covering 65,000 hectares.

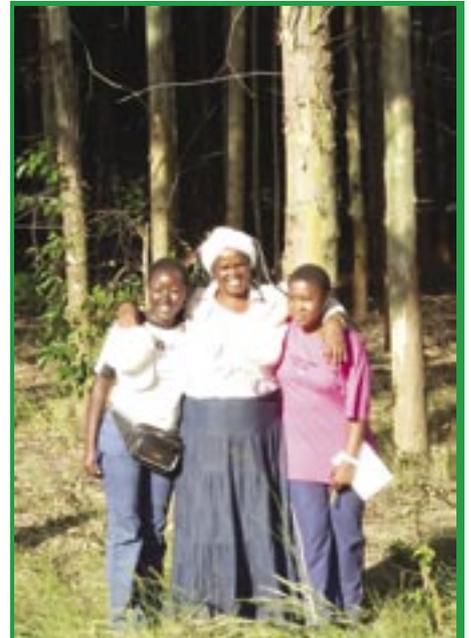
This caused Mr. Kai (one of our group) to whisper to me in bewilderment and amazement how great the planters were. "It seems I am thousand years away" Robert retorted in disbelief. It was a learning experience to many of us who were novice tree growers, as to how to set up good tree plantations and to manage trees. It was, however, disheartening to me to see no community involvement in tree planting in this area and no villages as ours. I am so used to here in Uganda.

On our guided tour we finally landed in beautiful country of Swaziland where we got a hospitable reception. There were equally huge forest plantations as those we saw in South Africa.

One thing that caught our interest is what we learnt that one of the plantations we visited (Usustu) was once the biggest plantation on the entire globe. We were also told that the element of community involvement was slowly and gradually being introduced to the chiefs and even that the chiefs had given it a blessing. Thus it would especially benefit those with land and that it would come in form of free improved seeds (plantlets).

Another interesting scheme was "planting trees for school fees", which benefits children unable to pay their school fees. These were shown an area for tree planting and after planting is done, in return these children's school fees are paid. This is so commendable because it is a practical and direct way for a community to benefit. In addition a unique community scheme which captured my interest was the one meant for bee hunters. The bee hunters are rented bee clothing protective gears (kit) which are meant to be returned after harvesting honey. The idea of this scheme was conceived after so many miles of forests were destroyed through persistent burning by the bee hunters. But the biggest drawback of this scheme is that many of the hunters disappear with the protective gear and never return.

In Kwazulu Natal, the huge modern forest we saw was of Eucalyptus for paper and pulp by big companies.



Ms. Thandzile Hlengwa (centre), a member of the Inkosi Royal Family and a beneficiary of Sappi's Project Grow, poses with Celia and Sarah in front of her 7-yr old E.grandis 3ha stand.

It even became more exciting when I found out that idea of community involvement which I was craving for so much was being practiced in Kwambonambi and Richards Bay area.

Over to Celia: Project Grow is a community outreach program, where Sappi provides free seedlings to individuals in the community, provided he/she has at least one hectare of land and one shows interest in tree planting. It was started 22 years ago, in Zululand. The type of land ownership is communal, where a traditional head called the 'Inkosi' is the overseer of the land and has power to allocate the land to individuals for use. The government's role is to endorse these allocations. Ladies have equal opportunities as men when it comes to land use and tree ownership. Once a farmer is approved for this project, he/she signs a contract with Sappi.

Cont. on P. 18



The SPGS team meeting Mrs. Msweli, one of the beneficiaries of Sappi's Project Grow



I SAW NO ROBOTS

By Charles Baguma

I was sorting out my receipts hoping that somebody would refund my VAT, when Shadrack my room mate entered, climbed up his double decked bed, and started sipping on his *Black Label*. He then asked me a question: you man, aside from visiting Mandela's Mthatha, Underberg, Pietermaritzberg, Scotbrough and now Durban, what one lesson do you take to your people in Uganda as you fly out of Jo'burg tomorrow?

This should have been a rude reminder, but I had kept a daily log of the whole trip. I put down my pack of receipts, reached out for my plastic clipboard and pushed aside my jungle boots for not smelling fresh from doing treks in Saapi, Mondi and Singizi forest plantations. I considered my position on all that I saw and I feel the most major one is my having come to terms with the reality of commercial forestry. I saw it and I now know, it works. I am ashamed to admit that up until then, the notion of commercial forestry with such huge plantations remained far-fetched and remote - even after visits to our biggest Uganda planters.



Kai talking to 2 of GFP's Contractors in their Sabie forests.

Fortunately, we did not see tractors planting trees nor robots weeding in between lines: they use black casual laborers like ours only that they were working under cutting edge approaches which we may need to copy. We witnessed enormous forests owned by private companies each with hundreds of employees but owners engaged on full time basis the way a shopkeeper attends to his shop in Uganda. For us, aside from the new foreign investors, all our Ugandan planters are what we casually call small-t, I mean people busily engrossed in their other "important" issues and are doing forestry as a fall back position. Lest they get sucked or retire! We probably have to get away from this if we are to get commercial with our trees.

One other score where we sadly contrast with those who have made it to the top of commercial forestry game is the way we deal with our laborers. The planters in SA seem to have thought through all the details of labour problems and have found a way of getting round them. They have a very efficient contracting system under which is far removed from what we call contracting. The average SA contractor is not a far removed business man who many not be doing the work himself, rather you may not quickly tell who their employee is but most likely the man you meet ridding a bakkie (SA for pick-up!) or supervising land clearance or pitting is a highly experienced and equipped contractor. It is also known that this

contractor does not earn small: he sits periodically with the forest owner, they agree on his budget, his profit and all the nitty-gritty details of his annual planned operations (APO). The owner's work is reduced to auditing and supervising the contractor on value for money, heritage conservation, compliance with labor laws and other quite valuable aspects beyond running around with insincere members or thieves stealing glyphosate and tools.

Compared to this, what we are doing in Uganda can best be referred to as labour brokerage, where the one who finds the manpower after "eating" from you and the men, hands them over to the busy you doing your own things. The next we hear from you is "people are not sincere, they do not do it as agreed" then you run even to using prisoners!

There is quite a bit of technology in their harvesting systems, which is about a dozen years from us and I guess that is when we shall need it. But even within this, I found the Owner Driver scheme quite intriguing and we can already borrow a leaf from them. Under this, a driver who many times is a community member living in the neighborhood, is assisted to own the truck which he uses to work. He has his name conspicuously inscribed on its door and is paid on the basis of the amount of timber he ferries from the plantation. The scheme is again managed by a private individual in town to whom the forest company sends cheques at the end of the month. The same individual is also the one who deals with the bank on behalf of the drivers and the forest company to avail new trucks. But most surprising, it is the driver who decides what to do with the truck at the end of day when thousands of tonnes have been ferried and a monthly salary earned for half a decade! I am saying the driver and a neighbor in this case, is a serious stakeholder in the forest company: he has been brought onto the "board of directors", hence malingering, theft, mishandling and such other malicious acts like fires are all eliminated.

I still remember the words of the man we met last, Mr. Ferdie Brauckmann of Natal Co-operative Timbers. He said "the world market for timber is increasing every day. There will certainly be ready market for your timber. Yes, it is going to be quite some time for you, but I can assure you, the day you sell, you are going to smile."



A truck transporting PG Bison's labour: health and safety measures were a priority at all the forestry companies we visited.

HARVESTING, MARKETING AND UTILISATION



By Dr. Florence Nangendo & Mnason Tweheyo



A highly mechanized Eucalyptus harvesting operation at Mondi, KZN. The contractor owns all the machines and works two 10-hour shifts. All the wood is going for pulping.

Florence writes: I went to South Africa with an enthusiastic mind ready to pump anything about forestry in my predominantly social science head. And for sure I was not disappointed. Although at the end of the forestry chain, these aspects should actually be thought of as early as possible before the tree is even planted. This means that when you are planning for your plantation, you should know when you intend to harvest the tree, and for what type of market you are targeting.

If the trees are for pulp then the rotation age will be lower and not much precision is needed when cutting the logs. Again the market will determine the type of silviculture (sorry I did not intend to be technical!), for example, when it is for pulp you more interested in volume. Therefore many stems are planted, pruning is done only once and there is no thinning. If you are targeting the sawlog market, however, then you have to thin so that you get the biggest tree God can give. For those of you who are worried about thinning, fearing to cut down your precious trees and thinking that it is a waste because there could be no market (especially for pine), I learnt another concept that can help. We were told by our team leader that we should treat the trees to be thinned as weeds, which are competing with your good

sawlog trees. This drives the point home well and now I know if I am targeting sawlogs, I have to start now by thinning in order to get a good market.

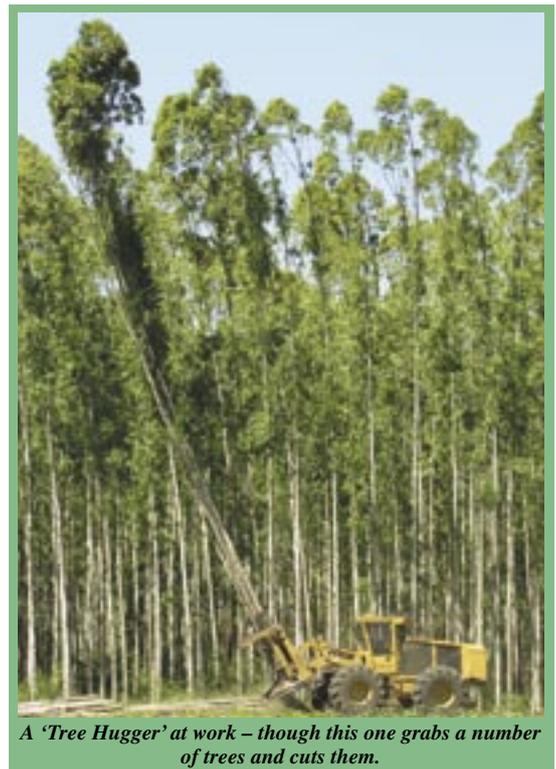
We saw both small and large scale farmers; the large-scale farmers have machinery for harvesting ("the tree hugger" – see photo), de-barking and cross-cutting. Maybe not for Uganda just yet though! A colleague commented that if we were to bring down those machines, they would cut all the trees for the SPGS members in one day and the next day, they would be redundant! About utilization I learnt that one can use all parts of the tree at any given time. The branches can stay in the plantation to act as manure and protect the soil cover (of course if there are no neighbors that need firewood), while the bark of the trees are used as a source of energy in the pulp mills, and those from the sawmills are used in the nursery. This is what I learnt, I think by now I am moving towards Social Forestry!!! Thanks to SPGS.

Over to Mnason: After such fascinating trip, one amazing thing is that the forestry

business in South Africa has an income more than five times great than the Uganda's economy. Not to mention that Uganda has great capacity to improve on its forest sector. As I write briefly about harvesting and sawmilling, I am focusing on Pine for sawmilling. Compared to Uganda where harvesting for timber takes around 20 years, in South Africa harvesting for timber takes 20-30 years. Thus as a plantation farmer in Uganda, I found that we have a comparative geographic advantage in terms of growth rate and volume yield.

In South Africa, harvesting is very high tech.: both felling and other logging operations are completely mechanised. What was most fascinating was the use of winches and cable to pull logs on very steep hills; in Uganda and equivalent area are the hills of Kigezi. One key feature which of course comes with mechanization, is that few people do a lot of work. When compared to Uganda, the work that is done by 100 people is done by 10 in South Africa.

Cont. on P. 18



A 'Tree Hugger' at work – though this one grabs a number of trees and cuts them.



Seedling Handling & Transport

By Alex Atayamba

A common cry from tree planters goes something like - “we bought good seedlings from recommended nurseries, we made good pits, we planted early in the rains, we didn’t plant into weeds, but still we have been disappointed by the survival and early growth of the trees!”. We at the SPGS have been looking into the issue but first we have to be clear that we all know what constitutes a quality seedling. A quality seedling is one which has the potential to survive and grow well after planting. The ultimate measure of seedling quality is thus performance in the field—both in terms of initial survival and early growth.

Successful tree planting does not happen by chance: success requires careful planning and attention to detail from the nursery to planting in the field and aftercare. Professional planting can be ruined by improper seedling handling before the first seedling is placed in ground. Likewise good seedling care and handling can be ruined by improper planting techniques. In the event time, effort, and money is wasted. The communication between nursery manager, transport operator, and forester can facilitate seedling quality control at each stage.

I have been looking at the way seedlings are handled and transported and have come up with some interesting conclusions:

- Most private tree planters are just not aware of any better means of transport.



Packing seedlings into the nestable crates at Global Forests, Kikonda.

- There has been little guidance on best practices for handling and transporting.
- Some sites are located in remote areas where vehicles cannot reach.
- Most tree nurseries are located far from planting sites.

I have observed planters putting seedlings from the nursery bed into basins, carrying the basins to the lorry, loading the seedlings into the lorry or pick up (see photo) and then transporting the seedlings for long distances to the planting site. At the planting site, the plants are offloaded and re-packed into basins and then taken from the basins to be packed on the ground. When the time is ready for planting, the seedlings are again packing into basins, carried (or transported) to the planting site, lifted from the basins for distributing to the pits and eventually planted. Phew....it is a wonder any survive at all!

All this handling has many consequences:

- A lot of soil is lost from the pots and the roots are left exposed to heat.
- Mechanical damage to the trees is high.
- Seedlings are stressed due to lots of water loss.
- The initial survival after planting is reduced due to planting stressed seedlings.
- By the end of the whole process (I counted some 10 handlings), an average of 10% of the seedlings loaded from the nursery are not planted due to damages. That is a lot of money wasted.



Seedling crates being loaded onto a customised tractor-drawn trailer.



Transporting seedlings like this leaves most of the plants suffering from stress and undoubtedly damages some too.

How are we going to solve this?

Whilst we are not going to solve the problem immediately, the damage and wastages can be minimized by adopting some simple measures. I have looked at containers being produced by *Nice House of Plastics* (Bugolobi, Kampala) that could minimize handling. There is a kind of tray (Nestable crate) that can pack 60 seedlings (raised in a 3” diameter pot commonly used by tree growers in Uganda - see photos). The seedlings are packed vertically into the crates right from the nursery bed and then can be neatly stacked on the vehicle. These crates cost around US\$27,000 each and are already being used by Global Woods at Kikonda. Note, however, that those with a habit of planting overgrown seedlings will not be able to use these crates since only seedlings below 20cm (maximum height recommended) will fit without any damage.

In addition to using these crates, we would also strongly recommend the following:

- Try not to transport seedlings at the hottest part of the day.
- Always shelter plants from the sun and wind during transport.
- Off-load the plants near the planting site where they should be watered and temporarily shaded: this lets them recover from the shock of the journey.
- Plant the seedlings as soon as they have recovered (when conditions are favourable).

Your feedback on this important – and yet often over-looked issue – would be appreciated.

SPGS Community Planters' Family Expands:



By Zainabu Kakungulu and Charles Odeke (SPGS Plantation Officers)



Community members at Rakai eagerly off-loading P. caribaea seedlings supplied by the SPGS in March 2007.

The wave of enthusiasm for tree planting sparked by the SPGS has continued under the new phase of the project. The requests from communities are coming in thick and fast and from all corners of the country too. The new phase of the SPGS not only had its impact on the larger commercial planters but has been a big boost to the SPGS community planting 'family' as well.

To make it a more balanced family, we found it necessary to move to the North and there two women's groups in Gulu came on board. Kigando and KICOFA in Kiboga district originally under the support of SUB Kikonda, are also now amongst the proud new members of SPGS community support. Among others are Rukokoma in Bushenyi, RECPA in Ntungamo, Kalagi Kawututu and COFSDA in Mukono district.

Due to constraints of land two communities in Luweero district; Gembe and Bukalasa could not keep on the scheme but they decided to nurture another neighbouring community (Singo) and encouraged members to join community planting and utilise the opportunity as well.

We have therefore grown by 8 communities. To cut a long story short, the number of community beneficiaries from the SPGS is growing and growing really fast. There are many applications still on our tables too: the problem being two-fold: we cannot stretch ourselves too thinly going to too many places because then we cannot properly support the groups planting. Secondly our current budget is now fully subscribed to the point of there being an excess of demand over supply.

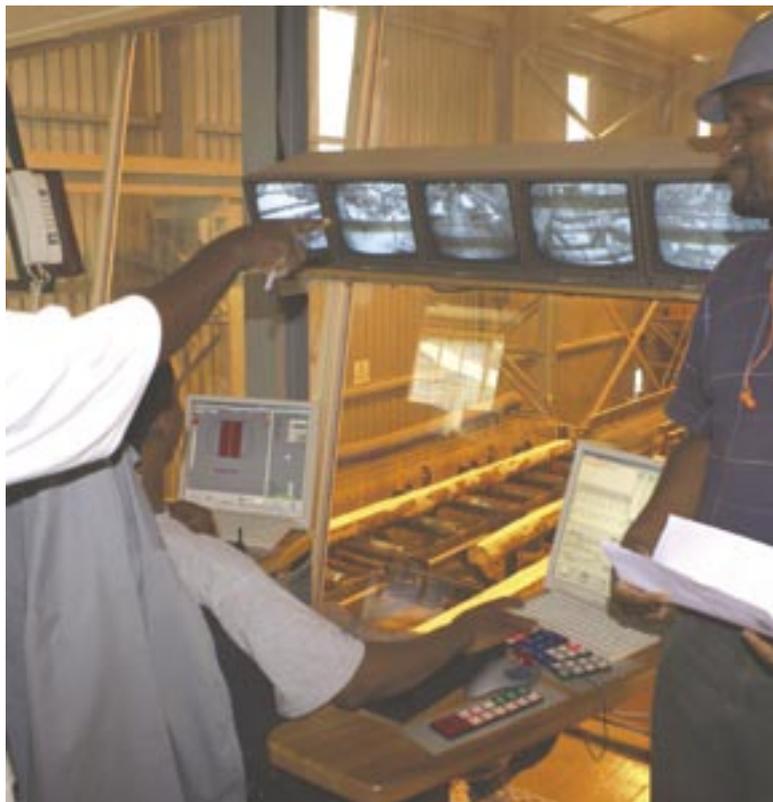
This current season the SPGS purchased and delivered seedlings to 16 communities as follows:

- Rakai (Nkalwe, Mugamba, Kigazi).
- Kiboga (Kigando and Kigabwa).
- Bushenyi (Muziira).
- Ibanda (Rukokoma).
- Ntungamo (RECPA).
- Gulu (MM Acayo, Wala Lapainat women groups).
- Luweero (Kiryambidde and Singo).
- Mukono (Kalagi Kawututu and COFSDA).
- Nakasongola (Kazzi and Kabaale).

A total of 128,643 seedlings were distributed to the communities and this is expected to cover an area of 81ha if planted at a spacing of 3x3 and assuming a survival of 70%. This brings the total area planted by SPGS communities to 230 ha on average.

With the predicted demand of over 70,000ha of mature plantation by 2025, a lot still needs to be done but the small scale growers can contribute significantly towards bridging the gap. We commend all the communities we support for the corporation accorded to us which makes our work more interesting and even much easier. For the SPGS clients who have organised communities near and around your plantations, we are also grateful for your effort in helping these small scale growers.

For the communities which applied but have not yet received our support we encourage you not give up for we are hopeful that if more funds are secured then we shall definitely be at your service. Do not lose hope it's just the beginning and the struggle continues.



Modern sawmilling is a high tech affair! At Peak Timbers' new mill in Swaziland, an experienced operator can greatly increase recovery of sawn timber.

From P. 13

People Power:

The agreement is that Sappi provides the farmer with free seedlings, usually Eucalyptus, and an interest free loan to cover establishment and management expenses and technical advice. The farmer in turn pledges to sell the timber harvested from this plantation to Sappi. Sappi recovers its money by taking a percentage off the farmer's payments from selling the timber. To-date, the project has over 8,000 growers, with 15,000 ha planted in Natal and 4,000 ha in Zulu land. 80% of the planters are women as the men often move to the cities to get employment.

The first grower we visited was a lady from the Inkosi royal family, Ms.Thandzile Hlengwa, who joined Project Grow in 2000. She has a 6 year-old clonal Eucalyptus stand (3 ha) and a 7 years old E.grandis stand (3ha). Both stands showed outstanding performance and the farmer hoped to harvest them at 8 years. Each ha produces an average of 400m³ of wood at harvest, and each cubic metre is sold at R250 (ca.US\$62,000). The second case was a farmer

who was harvesting his 0.7 ha stand, and was hoping to make a profit equivalent to 25 Million Uganda Shillings!! These particular farmers were two times lucky, as their plantations were located very close to the mill, and hence minimal transportation costs.

Back to Mohammed: One of the beneficiaries was one lady called Yozefina, who had a plantation of 10ha. She benefited from Sappi's interest free loan which she paid off and even managed to put up a good house. With a smile Yozefina told us and was contemplating buying even a car with the proceeds from the next harvest! Another beneficiary of this community service was Mr. Simoni. He had planted 4ha and was hoping to pay off the interest free loan in the next 2 years. He was very enthusiastic and hopeful that one day he will be able to make it and have money. Though he seemed to have no money in his pocket but his face was shining with a ray of hope.

In comparison to SA, in Uganda we have started on a good note by involving the community and the SPGS has done a commendable job in this endeavor. It has provided seedling to communities that have land where they can plant trees. What I saw in South Africa was a learning lesson: I came back more determined to plant and tend trees to that level of tree growers in South Africa. This Safari added many grains into the granary of my information.

From P. 15

Harvesting, Marketing & Utilisation

Another key element in the harvesting operations in South Africa is that each and every activity is contracted out. In South Africa contractors own the machines and are highly professional in the area of harvesting. Most of the contractors are former plantation or factory workers. The issue of contracting is still missing in Uganda and to develop a viable forestry enterprise, we have to have professional contractors.

Saw milling

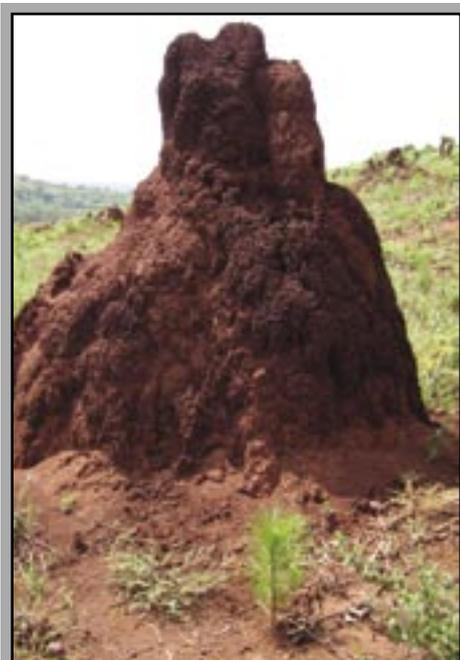
In light of what I saw, it seems that great volume of wood in South Africa goes to pulp and paper factories. We visited one saw mill at Singisi which produces sawn timber of different classes and veneers. As the case of harvesting, saw milling is a high tech operation. After trucks offload logs from the forest into log yard, every operation is again mechanised. Within the sawing room there is a single person direction all operations using a computer. More man power is needed in the sorting process where women separated poor planks from good ones and do all other sorting needs. After saw milling, the planks are seasoned to remove excess moisture, graded again and piled into stacks for export or transportation to the markets. One encouraging point is that the demand for timber is high and farmers are getting profits from their labour. It is hard to talk about harvesting without mentioning a word on road construction. The forest roads in South Africa are of high quality thus making the harvesting operations much easier.

MAJOR PESTS OF TREE PLANTATIONS

– I – TERMITES



By Bric Milligan



The presence of these termites is fairly obvious!

These well-known and easily recognizable, subterranean ant-like insects are widely distributed throughout the tropical and sub-tropical regions of Sub-Saharan Africa. They live together in large colonies which can contain millions of individuals. There are some 2,000 different termite species but not all are wood destroyers. Many eat grass, leaves and humus and they play an important role in soil fertility, like earthworms in cooler regions. Termites can, however, also cause serious damage to young forestry plantations (as well as your houses!). Most of the damage is caused by *Macrotermes* species which build the large mounds (see photo) but other subterranean species can also cause damage too.

Species affected:

Indigenous species are more resistant than exotics. Of our main plantation species, Eucalypts are the most susceptible to termite damage – especially *E. grandis* and *E. fraxinoides*. *E. nitens*, *E. paniculata* and *E. camaldulensis* are moderately susceptible and *E. smithii*, *E. macarthurii*, *E. dunnii*, *E. fastigata* and *E. microcorys* the most tolerant species. As is often the case

with pests (and diseases), plants suffering from disease or drought are generally more susceptible to termites than healthy plants. Trees are usually most susceptible to termites in their first year and become more resistant to attack as they grow older.

Damage caused:

Termites eat the roots to form a point below the root collar or the plant is ring-barked (see photo). It is usually noticed only when the trees start dying off and by this stage the termites have finished doing the damage.

Control:

The most effective method of control is to plant species that are susceptible to termite attack, such as pines. Where this is not feasible, the termites need to be destroyed or discouraged from attacking your trees: this can be done using pesticides. Termite nests can be dug up manually and the queen removed, this results in the termite colony disbanding and moving on elsewhere.

Before we talk about using pesticides we need to emphasize the importance of safety. All pesticides are poisonous and will make someone sick or even kill them if too much contact is made or if it enters the body. So all safety instructions need to be followed and safety equipment in good working order must be provided.

One can target the nest by digging a hole in the centre of the nest and pouring in pesticides mixed with water. To make this more effective the termite hill can be covered with plastic ensuring that the pesticide is contained in the nest and

thereby being more effective. The other option is to drench the planting pit with around two litres of water- pesticide mix. This is better done immediately after planting so that a crew with proper safety equipment can do the operation. It can, however, be done at planting or mixed in with a super absorbent polymer.

Normally only the one application at planting is sufficient. However, when there is no other food source termites may have no other option than your planted trees! In this case a follow up application needs to be done. Be vigilant though as once you notice the trees dying off it is likely that the damage is far greater than what you see, so apply the pesticide before any attack.

Pesticide Application

Methods being used widely in Uganda is as follows:

- All termite mounds are poisoned and the queen removed. Dursban® is mixed with water and poured into a hole dug into the top of the termite mound. It is then covered with plastic.
- Around each planted Eucalypt seedling a teaspoon of Furadan® granules are sprinkled. These are mixed slightly into the top soil to prevent exposure to the elements.

It is important to remember that the chemical in Dursban® is Chlorpyrifos which is an organophosphate and affects mammals too: it is thus a very dangerous pesticide. All safety precautions must be taken when handling these products and hands and face must be washed with soap and water after using them. Clothes need to be washed before re-use.



Typical termite damage to an *E. grandis* stem.



“Can you hear me? Why didn’t you talk to the SPGS before you bought this seed?”

SPGS Clients’ Meeting

The Bridging Phase clients are all invited to Hoima on 16th May for a day’s field visit to various planters – including the SPGS Planter of 2996 – Global Woods at Kikonda. Don’t be left out! One representative per client only please. Book with Josephine ASAP.

Contacts

The SPGS Contacts database is finally complete! This basically means that all your mail will be sent to the correct addresses hence forth (do we hear a sigh of relief from Mr. Kafureka?). This goes for all our Phase I and Bridging Phase clients, applicants and partners. We have added our community planters to the list too, so you can keep abreast with the latest developments. For our overseas partners, copies of our recent publishing will be sent in PDF to your email addresses, so you can get them hot off the press and we can save on the postage bill as well. A method of periodically updating our applicants on they progress of their grant applications is being considered too, so please do check your mail boxes regularly.

PLANTER’S DIARY

- Beat up your new plantings if less than 90% stocked.
- Weed, weed, weed those young trees.
- Book your place on the Clients’ meeting for 16-17th May.
- Book your Field Manager on the Establishment Training course in 28-31st May.
- Book your PCH seed requirement.
- Weed again!

TRAINING UPDATE

4 day Plantation Establishment Course based around Jinja. Participants arrive Sun. 27th May; depart lunchtime Thurs. 31st May. Places strictly restricted to 25.

STOP PRESS!

Our regular readers will remember that last year we imported a number of copies of the excellent book by Julian Evans and John Turnbull – **Plantation Forestry in the Tropics**. Well, we have been fortunate enough to secure a further batch this time at a discounted price and we want to encourage more people to own it since it is one of the few books of its kind. This edition (the 3rd) is bang up to date, with a new section on clonal forestry too. The SPGS is selling copies at only UGX 100,000 each (full price would be UGX160,000). It is strictly on a first come first served basis so get down to the SPGS office soon.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO...

- **The Chalcid Wasp** affecting Eucalypts.
- **Clonal forestry:** lessons to be learned from South Africa.
- **Contracting:** The SA way.
- **Certification** to be put on the SPGS’s agenda.

SPGS OFFICE CONTACTS:

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