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Phase I of the SPGS (2003-2008) was a joint European Union and Government of Uganda initiative and 10,000 hectares of timber plantations were established by private growers. Talks are currently underway for the European Union and Norwegian Government to fund an expanded Phase II of the project (2009-2013).

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SEED & SEEDLING UPDATE



1. SEEDS

Species	Seed Source	Stocks Kgs	Seeds Per Kg	Sale Price per Kg (UGX)	Notes
<i>Pinus caribaea</i> var. <i>hondurensis</i>	FPO Australia*	250	35,000	2.34 M	1 st Batch of 150 Kgs expected at NTSC ¹ in April '09 UTGA ² expecting in July '09
	Brazil	600	20,000	1.04 M	1 st batch of 300 Kgs expected at NTSC in April '09
<i>Pinus patula</i> (weeping pine)	local	50	50,000	500,000	Available at NTSC Source (& quality) unknown.
<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> (Kalitunsi)	Fort Portal	200	150,000	120,000	Available at NTSC. UTGA ² is making efforts to source <i>E. grandis</i> from South Africa.
<i>Maesopsis eminii</i> (Musizi)	local	500	400	50,000	Available at NTSC
<i>Terminalia superba</i> (Umbrella Tree)	local	350	4,000	50,000	ditto
<i>Terminalia ivorensis</i>	local	400	4,000	50,000	ditto

¹ NTSC – National Tree Seed Centre, located in Namanve on the Kampala-Jinja Highway.

² UTGA - Uganda Timber Growers Association (see details on page 16). Seed is sold only to registered members.

To calculate how much seed one needs to purchase:

$$\text{No. of Kgs of seed} = \frac{\text{No. of ha to be planted} \times \text{No. of seedlings required per ha}}{\text{Estimated number of seedlings per Kg of seed}}$$

SPGS allows only trees planted from improved and recognized seed sources as indicated in the above table; so ensure that your nursery has the right quality of seed (for details please see the SPGS Guideline on Tree Nurseries).

SEEDLINGS

The NFA's NTSC is currently raising 1 million PCH seedlings and 600,000 *E. grandis* seedlings for the March-April '09 season. We have been informed, however, that no reservations are being taken and seedlings will be sold on first come first served basis: a decision that does not support the forward planning that we at the SPGS try to instill in our growers.

For those not prepared to enter the lottery of finding seedlings at the NTSC, there are regional NFA nurseries listed in the SPGS Nursery Guideline. The following recommended private nurseries will also have seedlings for sale in the March-April '09 season and a deposit should secure your seedlings:

Nursery	District	Contact	Tel	Seedling details
Kikonda-SUB	Kiboga	Shedrack Kajura	0772-384024	50,000 PCH Brazil
Core woods	Hoima	Fred Babweteera	0772-466336	200,000 PCH Brazil 300,000 <i>E. grandis</i> (SA & Local)
UMOJA Farmers	Kakiri-Wakiso	Jocelyn Rugunda	0712- 429922	300,000 PCH Brazil
TREGD Co. (U) Ltd	Luzira, Kampala	Paul Ochom	0782- 529133	40,000 PCH Brazil 30,000 PCH Australia 50,000 EG Fort Portal

EUCALYPTUS CLONES

Uganda Gatsby Trust nurseries are raising 550,000 eucalyptus clonal cuttings for the next season as well. Each cutting goes for UGX 350. Contact Moses (Mbale) - 0772 595 545; Samson (Fort Portal) - 0782 153 659; Simon (Kifu, near Mukono) - 0752 644 995.

Cover Photo: It is fitting that the cover of this 23rd SPGS Newsletter has Jossy Byamah sharing his knowledge with other private planters at one of the regular SPGS field meetings for where current and potential planters come together to learn from each other. Jossy is Manager of Busoga Forestry Co. in Mayuge, but has just announced his retirement. We will have an in-depth interview with Jossy in the next Newsletter.



ONWARDS & UPWARDS

by Paul Jacovelli

what we now refer to as Phase I (2004-08) as well as to look forward and make recommendations for Phase II (2009-2013).



An email arrived in my in-box a month or so ago from one of the many people overseas who now follow the progress of the SPGS: "I suppose you have a long line of investors outside your office now that the financial markets are going down? If you have invested in forestry at least the cubic metres are still growing even if the value for the time being may be temporarily low". Now that is a powerful message I thought and highlights one of forestry's great strengths as an investment.

Amidst the current gloom of the world's economic woes, it is a pleasure to report that the interest in investing in commercial tree growing here in Uganda shows no signs of abating. Even before the next phase of the project has been decided, formal applications from prospective planters are flooding in - in addition to the steady stream of people looking for technical advice on tree growing. We have also had some high profile visitors, been the recipient of a national award and are in the midst of a major appraisal for the next phase.

On 11th November 2008, we were very pleased to organize a day's safari for the Head of the European Commission's Delegation in Uganda, Ambassador Vincent de Visscher. We took him on a whirlwind tour of all the project's main activities, covering the SPGS's support to small and medium-scale planters, the clonal Eucalypt nursery at Kifu (managed by Uganda Gatsby Trust) and an enthusiastic, SPGS-supported community group (COFSDA) who are planting trees on the boundary of Mabira Forest (see pg. 12).

Ambassador de Vischer was clearly impressed with how the project has engaged so successfully with the private sector and quickly saw the great potential to expand its support. After lunching at the tranquil Rain Forest Lodge within Mabira Forest, the Ambassador announced that the EU was committed to supporting the SPGS to the tune of €10M over the next four years. He then announced (to rapturous applause that nearly caused a watching troop

The Norwegian team came in mid-Jan. '09, following on from the EU team who completed most of their field-work before Christmas. The EU team was from the IDL Group (a UK-based consultancy firm) and comprised Messrs. Ian Powell and Peter Massey - two experienced and well-traveled foresters. The Norwegian team comprised Messrs. Campbell Day and Erling Bergsaker, both from the Norwegian Forestry Group. Campbell has recent work experience in neighbouring Tanzania and S. Sudan.

Both teams met with key people in the public and private sector as well as undertaking numerous safaris to meet the growers - and see the trees of course. The teams will be meeting up in Oslo in Feb. '09 to harmonize (what a descriptive word!) their reports. As soon as we have an agreed programme for the next phase, we will ensure that you hear about it first.

In advance of this new phase, we are trying to ensure that potential planters are kept informed and (as soon as we have completed drafting our revised rules), SPGS staff will be visiting the many proposed planting sites around the country. During this interim phase, we are also running more practical training courses (see p.4 & 20) and Clients' field meetings (p.8). So please don't say we didn't tell you. Finally, when the donors asked if the project could manage to expand to support many more commercial and community growers, the answer of course was a resounding "YES WE CAN!"



Members from Kamusiime Assn. in Bushenyi with the author (Dec. 2008) in their 2003 PCH plantation: Brill!

of Colobus monkeys to fall out of their trees) that the project had won the EU's inaugural Visibility and Communications trophy (read more about it on page 7).

Regular readers will know that the Norwegian Government (NG) are also keen to come onboard and support the private sector in tree growing by building onto the solid foundations already laid over the last five years by the SPGS. In anticipation of this exciting new phase of the project, the EU and the NG agreed to jointly fund a team of consultants to critically review



CONTRACTOR TRAINING

Charles Odeke
(SPGS Plantation Officer).

One of the hot debates that SPGS clients regularly engage in when they are together, is the serious shortage of skilled forestry contractors in the country. In Jan.'08 with over 70 clients seated in Masindi Kolping Hotel discussing issues affecting them, this dominated the discussion. *"Most plantation investors are busy hence need trusted and skilled forest contractors to do the job of tree planting"* lamented Dr Peter Ngategize, as he promised to work with SPGS to mobilize funds for training forest contractors. We are pleased to inform you that things are now happening!

Aware that the country has never had any serious plantation forestry experience, the first step was to identify training needs through consultations with forest investors and the few current forest contractors - like Brenda Mwebaze (Heart of Gold Tree Co. Ltd). It became evident that there is often no formal agreement or contract signed between investors and contractors and many were based just on word of mouth. Unsurprisingly, therefore, there are frequent disagreements over the timing and quality of work done. High labour turnover is also common as many workers are not paid and this sometimes leads to conflicts at work. There are also issues of weak business planning and record keeping as well as poor health and safety conditions of workers, poor supervision and low productivity.

SPGS categorized the above complaints into four main areas



Forestry contractors need to learn more than silvicultural standards – especially small business skills and labour management.

of intervention namely:

1. Small business management.
2. Contract issues.
3. Labour management.
4. Plantation silviculture.

These are now being developed into course modules that constitute our contractor training course. The SPGS team is well capable of dealing with the last topic but we looked elsewhere for assistance with the other topics. After many meetings and eventually a tendering process, we have identified consultants from Makerere University Business School to teach the first two topics, and another one from the Labour Commission covering point no. 3. We have also started discussing with Makerere University the possibility of developing this course, with a view towards them running it in the future.

Over the last few weeks we have been regularly meeting

with the chosen trainers to ensure the course are tailored for adult learners of varying backgrounds. The first course is expected to start in Feb. '09. The 4 modules will take around a week each and they will be run over a period of 4 months, with breaks in between to allow for the contractors to supervise their workers. Trainees should expect some little cost-sharing especially for accommodation and meals, though the main training costs will be covered.

So we are now identifying likely candidates for the first course. If you are an existing contractor or someone who has been thinking of getting into the contracting business, please get in touch with us ASAP. Contact Charles Odeke (0782 023 827) or Josephine (0312 265 332/3) to express interest for the above course. It could well be the best business decision you ever make.

YOUNG FORESTERS LOOKING FOR A FOREST



Zainabu Kakungulu (SPGS Plantation Officer).

With the rate at which plantations are being established in the country, it is not surprising that there is a growing demand for labour - both skilled and unskilled. "Where can we find good forestry supervisors" is a question we are often asked and we have to explain that whilst there are many keen students and foresters out there, they have had very little exposure to commercial forestry. A recent SPGS survey showed that there have already been over 5000 jobs created on the plantations of private growers supported by the SPGS. Whilst the vast majority of these are unskilled, it is critical to address this human resources issue in order for the sector to maintain its current growth rate.

Through the Commercial Forestry Research & Training Steering Group (COMFORT), an exciting initiative is underway which growers should be aware of. In a collaboration between SPGS, UTGA and Nyabyeya Forestry College, final year students now have a chance to be attached to private sector, commercial tree growers to gain practical experience. These placements are aimed at offering practical field training to help the students acquire hands-on experience in commercial forestry, which will hopefully greatly increase their prospects of gaining employment in the sector. The hosts come to an arrangement with the students with regard to pay and

conditions of employment: our role is to connect them with growers.

The first group of beneficiaries comprised seven students, who were attached to Busoga Forestry Co. (Mayuge), Sustainable Use of Biomass (Kiboga), Precision Sawmills (Mubende), Dr. Peter Ngategize (Luwero) and Robert Bariho (Mpigi & Mubende). The attachments were for three months during the long vacation - around July-Sept.'08. During our routine field visits, we have

'real world'. Not only can you apply the theories that you learn in class to real experiences, but you also develop a greater appreciation for how your academic assignments and accomplishments translate to the world of work. An internship is the perfect way to 'test the waters'!"

For Patrick Muhangi, the internship turned out to be a real blessing for him. At the end of his three months internship, he earned himself a job at the plantation of Robert Bariho where he was attached. Internships

may therefore be an opportunity for job offers and is a strong reason why the initiative should be taken very seriously. It is the first impression you make on who may be a future employer. For the host, it's an opportunity to evaluate potential full-time employees.

Interns also bring a fresh, energetic view to their hosts and supply a valuable yet inexpensive source of labor. Interns are

eager to learn and often bring new ideas. Another opportunity for placements is coming up again - around July 2009. Make sure you do not miss this opportunity. If you want to host or if you are a student from Nyabyeya in your final year and you are interested in gaining some valuable experience, contact UTGA's Project Manager (Mike Nsereko) on 0772 979 824 or email miken@sawlog.ug. Book yourself a slot not later than May 2008 and do your bit towards building a sustainable, commercial forestry sector here in Uganda.



Trainees confer during one of the SPGS's practical training courses: budding Contractors, however, need to compliment their forestry knowledge with other skills to succeed in business.

had opportunities to interact with both the interns and the hosts and clearly, we have seen that this placement was advantageous for both parties. So we sought out the views of the interns and here share with you their thoughts on the arrangements.

For the interns, this was a fantastic way to explore an industry, gain invaluable insight into the working world and to make those all-important contacts. As one of the interns (Benson Kiplangat) said: "This experience was an opportunity to connect the classroom to the

TREE NURSERIES: Time to Modernize



Alex Atuyamba & Bric Milligan



A typical tree nursery in Uganda: they can produce good plants but their limitations are now becoming clear.



One of Mondi's modern nurseries in South Africa: consistent quality and high production rates are possible.

Tree nurseries in Uganda are still very basic with changes evolving at a slow pace towards improved technology. We must remember, of course, until very recently, there has been little commercial tree planting and thus no serious nursery business has been taking place. The first large tree nurseries were established in early 1960's by the former Uganda Forest Department (UFD) to raise plants for the major plantations like Lendu, Mafuga and Katugo. It was only around 2004, with the private sector (mostly under the SPGS) and NFA starting to plant seriously, that the demand for quality tree seedlings rapidly increased.

Now the tree nursery business in Uganda is at an exciting stage where everyone investing in tree planting thinks they should start their own nursery. The nursery business, however, is commonly hindered by poor practices and the future direction of these tree nurseries is not clear. Although some of the traditional tree nurseries have improved on their local practices, none has shifted from the old labour intensive operations. They still use polyethylene bags, topsoil and employ manual methods of watering and under-cutting (root pruning). There are difficulties in balancing soil ratios and seeds are raised in different soil conditions causing differences in germination rates and growth uniformity.

As more commercial growers emerge and the demand for seedlings rockets, some of the drawbacks of this traditional system are fast becoming apparent. Commercial growers are in the business of establishing Fast Growing, High Yielding plantations that require the regular and timely supply of high quality seedlings.

In the current environment, nurseries are struggling to meet the demand and the quality of the seedlings is often poor. This highlights the need to have modern tree nurseries in Uganda.

The key advantages of modern tree nurseries are their capacity for high production and various techniques that produce a high quality seedling. Modern tree nurseries also use only improved seed that is germinated in a controlled environment; they use artificial growing media that reduces the bulky transport and have a means of protecting the quality of the seedling until it is planted out in the field. Most modern nurseries have facilities for sowing seed directly into the trays - even for small seeds like many Eucalypt species.

Uganda is not a special case and should learn from other countries where tree nursery technology has been taken to considerably higher levels. The trend in all countries with large-scale plantation development programmes has been towards more centralised nursery production. Plastic pots (or sleeves) on the ground have been largely replaced by elevated tables supporting tough, plastic nigro trays with individual plastic inserts. Composted pine bark (or other organic media) has replaced topsoil as the rooting media and there has also been a major shift from manual watering to automated irrigation by a variety of sprinkler systems. In Uganda, even though most of the commercial tree planters are still small, those now planting more than 500,000 seedlings per year are experiencing limitations of their traditional nursery system.

Cont'd on pg 16

WE WON THE CUP!



The SPGS won 1st prize in the inaugural EU's Communication and Visibility Competition of 2008. This prestigious award was launched by the EC Head of Delegation in 2007 with the aim of improving public understanding of the role played by the different EU-supported projects as well as the EU's development role in Uganda. This honour comes with a very impressive trophy plus a 3-month period of hosting the SPGS website on that of the European Commission.

When we were awarded the cup (on 10th Dec.'08), the reason why the SPGS had won were explained: a simple, clear message was imparted; various audiences were successfully reached; the project's publications were technically accurate and finally, we were very open to receiving feedback. Other projects vowed to take the cup from us in 2009 but they should know that we won't surrender it that easily and we have lots of new ideas up our sleeves.



The SPGS's very own Allan Amumpe (Project Manager) proudly receiving the trophy from Ambassador de Visscher. It is now on display at the SPGS office.



THE ROAD TO FSC

Thaddeus Businge

Since our last issue, we have made considerable progress regarding group certification under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). First and foremost we had a pre-audit, the second step in certification after choosing the Certifier (in our case SGS Qualifor). The objective of the pre-audit is for the Certifier to ensure that the group aiming at certification understands the requirements of the group management systems and practices.

This pre-audit was carried out on 10-11th Nov.'08 by Cornelis van den Berg from SGS Qualifor in South Africa. It involved visits to sites of some randomly selected group members, studying records both at SPGS's office and in the field as well as discussions with the SPGS team. All this was aimed at identifying our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and

threats as we move towards forest certification.

Two major issues and a number of small others that need to be addressed were identified during the pre-audit. The first is that SPGS as a (relatively short-term) project is not ideal to be a FSC certificate holder. We were advised that UTGA would be in a better position to be certified, while SPGS continues with the Group Management and advisory roles.

The second major issue is the national legislation, which in Uganda's case vaguely defines a forest and a tree. Since FSC does not allow the clearing of natural forests to establish plantations, the lack of a clear definition of what constitutes a forest is problematic: it means that under the current legislation, we would not qualify for certification. In the absence of a National Standard, FSC requires

that national laws are followed with regard to plantation establishment and management.

The SPGS will however work hand in hand with all stakeholders to ensure that these issues are addressed. This also means that UTGA and Uganda's FSC Working Group will play an important role. The FSC Working Group will be spearheaded by Mr. Edward Mupada who is in the final stages of being accredited as the FSC contact person for Uganda. We learnt a lot from the pre-audit and will endeavor to put all recommendations into practice. It is a steep learning curve but with the usual co-operation of the planters and others involved in the process, we will continue towards our goal of forest certification.

NB. For those wanting more information on FSC, please contact Thaddeus or Bric at the SPGS office – see also www.sawlog.ug for an summary of the process (and previous Newsletter articles too) - Ed.



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Zainabu Kakungulu
(SPGS Plantation Officer).

As has always been our tradition, every 3-4 months we organize a field meeting with existing and potential investors. They are always not just good social occasions but provide a great opportunity to get to know and interact with colleagues in the same business - namely, commercial tree growing. They also provide a chance to escape from one's routine work and breathe some fresh air away from the stress of city life. Our most recent meeting was on 26th Nov.'08 at Ferdsult Engineering Services, an SPGS Client planting in Lugazi.

We registered a record turn up of over 100 people, with both current and prospective future clients from all over the country. The group first assembled alongside a 5-year old *Eucalyptus grandis* stand, where Ferdsult is constructing a treatment plant to add value to his poles. Definitely an entrepreneur who doesn't hang around!

After the introductions and some motivating words from Allan and Paul, a number of 'field lectures' were then presented by SPGS staff; the topics were as follows:

❶ **SITE SPECIES MATCHING:** emphasizing the importance of selecting species depending on suitability of the site and the objective of planting e.g. timber (sawlogs), poles, fuel wood. Climate (especially rainfall and temperature) and soil (e.g. depth, wetness, stoniness) were identified as the main site factors that will determine the suitability of a site for a particular species.

❷ **PRUNING & THINNING:** timely thinning of plantations is a **MUST** if one is to have a productive sawlog plantation. By reducing the number of stems per hectare, you reduce the competition and hence the remaining stems can then increase in diameter. Remember the larger the log, the more planks you can get from it and the more the revenue from it. Pruning is also an important silvicultural activity to ensure that you get clean knot-free timber, which should fetch a premium.

❸ **WEEDING:** weeding should start before planting (pre-plant weeding) and then continue as necessary after planting (post -plant weeding). Weeding eliminates competition from the unwanted plants and ensures that trees grow vigorously. Weeding can be done manually (e.g. spot weeding, line weeding and slashing) or chemically using herbicide. SPGS recommends the use of glyphosate, but only by trained personnel and to target weeds only at the right age/height. A demonstration of post-plant spraying was carried out by Ferdsult's trained team.

❹ **COMMON PESTS & DISEASES:** The main threats to our eucalypt plantations were highlighted as *Leptocybe invasa* (the Eucalyptus chalcid wasp) and fungal stem canker diseases (*Botryosphaeria* and *Coniothyrium*). For pines, the phenomena of yellowing and wilting

(sometimes leading to dieback and death of one or more trees), is a concern: we are calling it Pine Wilt until we know any better. For many such pest and diseases, the best way to reduce susceptibility is to apply the correct silvicultural practices at the right time, especially good site-species matching, land preparation and good weeding. The importance of only planting healthy plants and the regular monitoring of one's plantations were stressed.

The last stop was at a community supported by SPGS - Conserve for Sustainable Development (COFSDA). This group of 29 members was allocated land along the boundaries of Mabira forest by the NFA and the SPGS provided the community with seedlings to plant along this boundary. We hope that the trees planted shall provide an alternative source of timber and fuel wood and eventually reduce the community's dependency on the natural forest.

Despite the long (and very hot) day, it was a real success, with great interest and interaction from those present. I believe every such meetings are a fantastic learning experience and an opportunity for us to take the industry to another level. *The struggle continues but together we can succeed!!*

Many thanks to our excellent host for the day - Richard Byekwaso and his team at Ferdsult. They were a great inspiration to many of those just starting out in the commercial forestry business.

Due to the growing demand, the next Clients' meeting will be held on 25 - 26th May '09 and repeated on 1st - 2nd April '09. It is by invite only so contact SPGS to book places -Ed.

Quotations

The forest is a peculiar organism of unlimited kindness and benevolence that makes no demands for its subsistence and extends generously the products of its life and activity; it affords protection to all beings. (A Buddhist Sutra).

Do not be afraid to go out on a limb - as that's where the fruit is. (Anon).

In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy. (John Sawhill, 1936-2001 - President, UK Nature Conservancy).

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows. (Doug Larson).

PHOTO GALLERY I - CLIENTS' MEETING



The bumper crowd assembles at Ferdsult's plantations at Lugazi.



Richard Bakojja (rt.) makes his point to Peter Massey. Great hat, Richard!



SPGS client - Pierre le Roux, New Forests Co. (left); Ram Mohani, aspiring client - Ug Tea Corporation (centre); partners - Mike Nsereko, UTGA (rt) confer over lunch.



Every person for miles around turned up - and wanted to hear about COFSDA, the Mabira Community's tree planting efforts.



A welcome sight at the end of a great (but very hot) day.

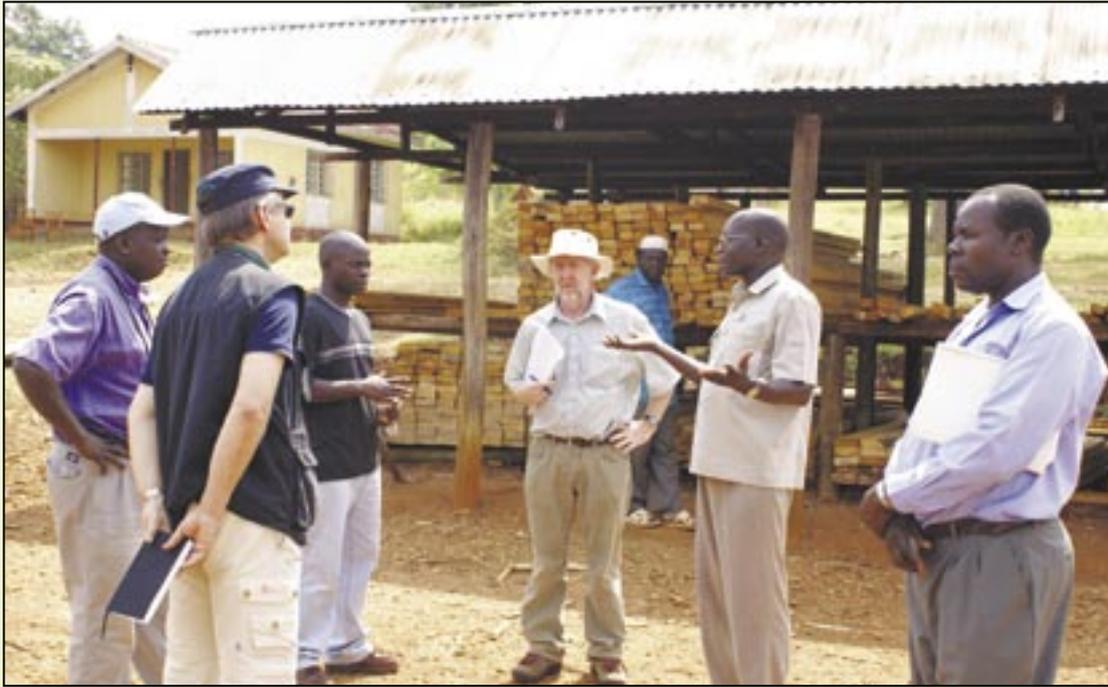


Prof. Mondo Kagonyera entertains the crowd (and does some high pruning too!) during the field meeting.

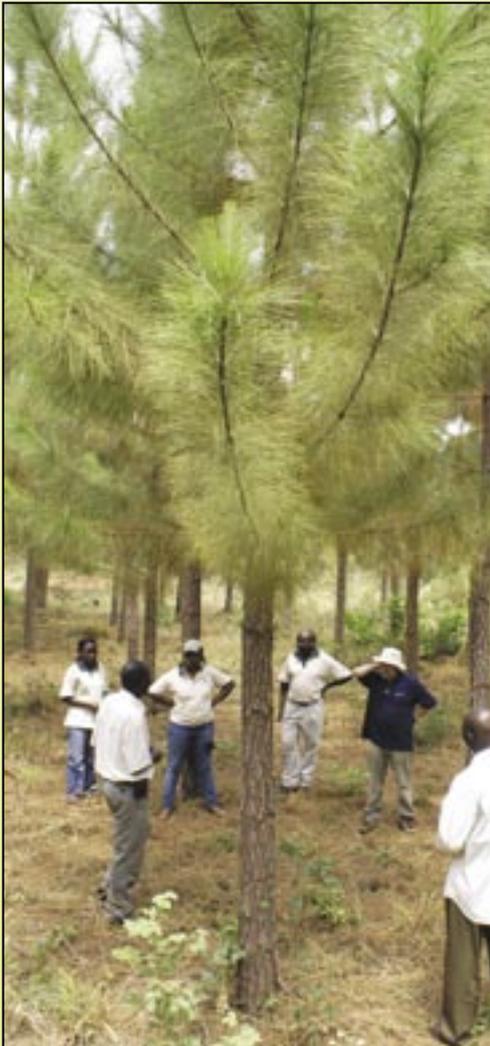


A group avidly listening to the SPGS's Charles Odeke as he explains the importance (and techniques) of weeding in young plantations.

PHOTO GALLERY II - NORWEGIAN ADVISORS' VISIT



Irling Bergsaker and Campbell Day in earnest discussion with George Ongaba, in charge of the Utilisation section at Nyabyeya Forestry College.



↑
The Norwegian team meeting with some of the LEMA Committee and one of their many successful growers in Luwero.

← *At the NFA's Katugo plantation debating the need for a heavier thinning operation: the crop is 5½ yr-old PCH from Australian seed, one of the earliest plantings carried out under the FRMCP, the parent programme of the SPGS.*

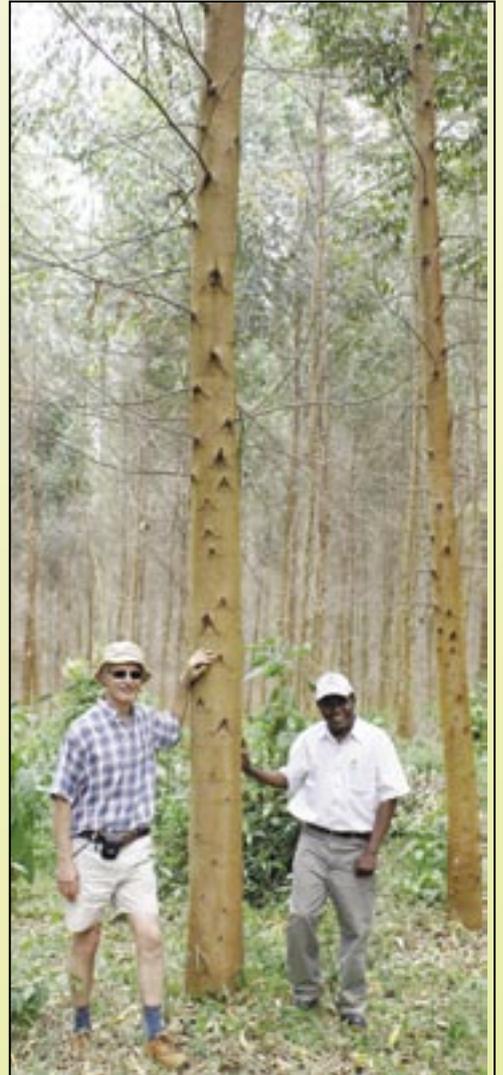
PHOTO GALLERY III - EU ADVISORS' VISIT



Peter Massey (in the cool shades) and Ian Powell discussing thinning and markets with Kamusiime Association (and on-lookers) in Bushenyi.



Ian advising two private growers in Masaka (Keeya Hood and G&B Commercial Agencies), who have planted without direct financial support from the SPGS – though they have benefited from technical support, including attending the project's training courses.



Mohammed Sekweya and Peter posing with one of the many excellent trees in Mohammed's 5-yr old E. grandis stand in Masaka.



Ian offered to accept part of his consultancy fee in firewood to help the cause: a very noble gesture we thought.



The Consultants inspecting Kirangwa Tree Planter's plantation in Mubende.

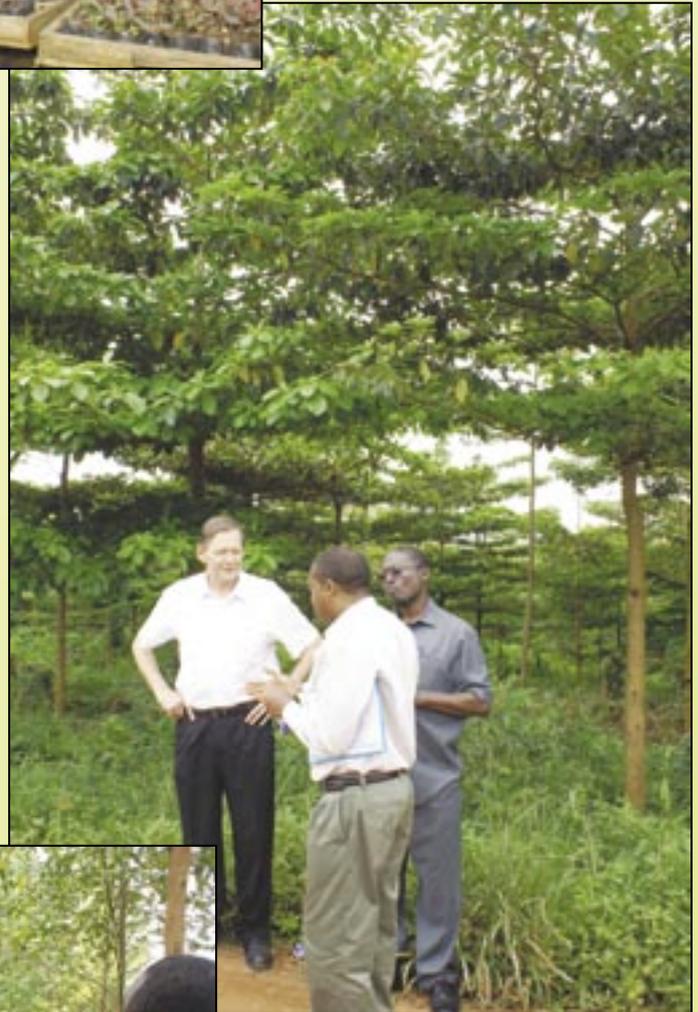
PHOTO GALLERY IV - EU HEAD ON SAFARI



Celia Nalwadda explaining the collaboration between Uganda Gatsby Trust (UGT) and the SPGS to the Head of EC Delegation in Uganda – Ambassador de Visscher and Veronique Lorenzo, Head of Rural Development.



↑ *UGT's Simon Byenek explaining the finer points of how to take cuttings from a stem just harvested from the mother garden at Kifu, Mukono. Many Ugandan growers are not yet aware of the great potential of clonal forestry.*



↑ *Two of UTGA's Committee (Robert Bariho (centre) and Peter Ngatigize) seize their chance to inform Ambassador de Visscher about UTGA – and of course, to explore areas where the EU might assist the organisation in the future. The impressive Terminalia stands in the background belong to Jose Plantations, Mukono*



← *And finally.... the group met with the incredibly enthusiastic Mabira Community Assn. (COFSDA), who (thanks to support from the SPGS and land from the NFA) are planting eucalypts along the boundary of this forest.*

Growing Trees in Gulu

My name is Mr. Pedro Amolat and I am planting in Opok Central Forest Reserve (CFR) Gulu district since 2004. I have planted pines and teak trees in the 50 hectares allocated to me. Investing in forestry plantations is full of challenges and requires a lot of strong determination, positive attitude, patience and hard work. I planted trees when the CFRs in Northern Uganda were troubled by the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army). The land I was allocated in Opok was heavily degraded owing to the Internally Displaced People (IDP) crises.

I took the challenge of investing in the forestry sector and help Uganda in the production of sustainable timber resources. My wife used to caution me against investing in forestry that time because of the LRA problem but I was not discouraged. Yes, there were times that I ran away for safety with my workers while planting the tree seedlings whenever LRA presence nearby was reported. I also bought a one-acre plot near the CFR for my project office and as a demonstration woodlot to inspire other families to invest in tree planting. When the allocated areas were already greening with pines and teak trees, neighbors and other investors also became interested in tree planting.

There were other challenges I met on the way. There were many IDP encroachers who cultivated food crops on the land. They initially resisted in my tree planting activities but later on cooperated when I took them in as project workers and waited until they harvested their crops. Goats and cattle also caused damages to young trees. The problem was curtailed when I constructed fences around the perimeter of the project areas. Fire is also a cause of destruction of young trees. In Northern Uganda the practice of burning the land during dry periods poses a big danger to forestry plantations, There are also miscreants or arsonists who take pleasure in causing fire to tree plantations. Fire-break lanes and control of too much vegetation have to be done along with fire mitigation and control. Good public relations with surrounding communities and employment of forest guards were undertaken.

Teak trees were planted along border areas where potential sources of wild fire had been observed as fire retardant cover.



As the IDPs return to their respective villages, labour sources also are becoming scarce and expensive. Application of herbicides and manual slashing of tall grasses were undertaken but costly. I have thought of other low cost and sustainable ways to control excessive vegetation under the trees. After observing in other countries (USA and Europe) the use of sheep in tree plantations, I proposed to the NFA the use of sheep to graze under the big trees. Sheep are good grazers and they do not destroy trees. This animal is suitable for controlling excessive vegetation. Their manure is already dry pelleted in form and is reportedly very rich in nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous and other minerals which trees need for growing.

The hope of obtaining support and incentives from the SPGS program encouraged forestry investors like me. The investors who have not yet received their support and incentives are bleeding financially because of long term costs from maintenance and supervision of the tree plantations. The SPGS office should do their utmost in enabling the SPGS participants to receive the plantation development cost support. Times are difficult these days and the help is badly needed for participants like us whose savings were channeled towards long-term forestry investments.

Let me end my story by saying that the SPGS has been a great source of inspiration and challenge. I feel immense joy seeing the transformation of heavily degraded lands into green

belts where wildlife has returned. I see great happiness seeing other families planting trees after having been inspired by what I have done. I felt challenged though by the operational problems unfolding before my eyes, which demanded solutions and actions. Undoubtedly, I need help through the SPGS and the carbon credit funds to maintain my forestry plantations.

The future is bright for the forestry sector of Uganda and it would be even brighter if support and incentives are made available sooner than later to participants and the communities involved in the project.

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Forestry offers one way to develop the North: creating jobs, providing poles, fuelwood and timber. This is Sekweya Mohammed's plantation in Masaka, now providing him with an early source of income [We hope to obtain photos of Pedro's trees (and others already planting 'up North') - during our next trip up there - Ed.]



THE BUS TO POZNAN

Bill Farmer – Chairman, Uganda Carbon Bureau

Forestry centre stage again at the annual Climate Change meeting

At rather short notice I decided to go to the Poznan climate change conference (otherwise known as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties – COP14) for the first two weeks in December 2008. Because of this late decision, the only accommodation I could find was a hotel some 32 km south of the charming city of Poznan – so, much of my reading time was spent on “The Bus to Poznan” each day.

For the second time at these annual events, the middle Saturday was “Forest Day”. If the first Forest Day at the previous COP in Bali was busy, the Poznan one was frantic – there were plenaries, sub-plenaries and 38 Parallel Side Events (the hottest topic by far was REDD – Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, to which no less than 21 side events were devoted). REDD basically means being able to claim carbon credits from keeping existing trees in the ground, rather than chopping them down, and they thereby become emissions of the greenhouse gas CO₂. This should be of interest to SPGS members with natural forest cover on their land – don’t cut it, we aim to be able to include this in our 2009 carbon efforts for you.

Everybody is lobbying hard for REDD carbon credits to be approved under the UN’s Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), but this is a painfully slow process. Meanwhile, the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) is gearing up to approve REDD projects now, and the first ones are currently being validated. We are in touch with these schemes, and are also part of the effort by Avoided Deforestation Partners to produce a toolkit for use in project submissions

to the VCS. We have just reviewed the first batch of modules, and in February should receive the final drafts before the whole thing is opened up for public comment. This is pretty complicated stuff, but it’s great that we are able to lobby on behalf of the Ugandan forest sector in this important exercise. There’s a wonderful booklet “The Little REDD Book” that explains what REDD is all about. (*see Book Review p.17 – Ed.*)

We kept our eyes open for new opportunities for Ugandan tree growers to access the carbon markets. The CarbonFix team was very visible – and with the Global Woods plantation at Kikonda being the first of their validated projects, Uganda’s

Deforestation and the burning of coal are threatening to overwhelm the planet’s fragile climate. Will we look into the eyes of our children and confess that we had the opportunity, but lacked the courage? That we had the technology, but lacked the vision? (A Greenpeace poster at Poznan).

name was very visible on one of the main conference walkways. Close by was the Green Resources stand – with publicity about their new project at Kachung near Lira. The quality of their efforts on carbon finance is clear, and they seem well on their way to achieve their goal “to be Africa’s best, and the world’s lowest-cost forest and carbon credit company”.

There was a lot of discussion about the CDM’s Programme of Activities as a means of bringing together a number of smaller projects that share similar characteristics, to secure the more valuable CDM carbon credits. This has mostly been seen to be of application to energy projects, but we managed to discuss this with a number of interested and supportive participants, and are now investigating how we can offer this to individual SPGS growers under an UTGA umbrella. Already

NEMA is using this approach for a municipal waste programme so, if there is money in muck, there should certainly be money in trees.

There is huge interest in the role of forests in the mitigation of climate change, and more evidence is coming forward about the rise in CO₂ levels caused by forest destruction. For instance – Indonesia is the world’s third largest greenhouse gas emitter largely because of their wholesale removal of forest cover (think about tree loss in Uganda, and you will appreciate that Uganda’s carbon footprint is largely generated by tree loss rather than industrial pollution). And CO₂ emissions from forest destruction are the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions – larger than all the world’s transport sources. That’s a staggering fact. There’s a finite amount of forests, and they are being depleted at a truly astonishing rate. This is a terrible legacy that we are leaving.

At this conference the sense of urgency to take action about climate change was everywhere. At an impressive US delegation side event, there was an electric atmosphere of big business joining with the leading conservation groups to work with the new US Administration. Nick Stern (the author of the respected UK Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change) echoed this need for speed – “climate change will not just affect our children and our grandchildren – it’s affecting us now”. Stern called for plain language to be used to bring this home to ordinary people, instead of the scientific and economic jargon that he and others have used so far (see page 19 for the speech from Martin Parry that brought this message home to foresters).

So, the call is out for real action in 2009, and forests are there centre stage. Uganda is very well placed to play its part in this effort and to generate serious incomes from the carbon trade; not just from new plantings, but also from the protection of threatened forests such as Mabira.

We look forward to working with you all in 2009 to make this a reality.

Email: billfarmer@ugandacarbon.org

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



by Charles Odeke (SPGS Plantation Officer)



Members of Kamusiime Association in Bushenyi, sharing ideas with the IDL Consultants (Dec. 2008).

The NFG team also had an interesting time with LEMA communities in Luwero. About 120,000 seedlings have been planted by 6 different LEMA community groups – two of whom were visited by the team. What amazed the team (besides the trees being well maintained) was the level of interest raised by the visited farmers for more seedlings. Many good ideas were shared with a view to improving the support during the next phase of SPGS.

For the forthcoming March/April season, we have booked 100,000 seedlings for communities. Those of you who have been approved for this round of seedlings distribution, please go ahead to prepare well your plots. Before delivering the seedlings we shall need to see where you have made ready for planting.

For the older trees, please keep them weed free and also guard them against fire damage.

We have been busy of late hosting consultants evaluating and appraising SPGS activities. First an EU-team from IDL Ltd. (UK), followed by the Norwegian Forestry Group (NFG). This study is paving the way for the next phase of SPGS, which is certainly good news for everybody concerned in this tree planting era – and this certainly includes our many community-based planters!

To date about half a million seedlings have been supplied or some 350ha (at 70 % survival) established by 30 different communities being supported in the 15 Districts since 2005. By Dec.'08, 34 new communities had submitted their application for similar support requiring over two and half million seedlings just to start them off! As SPGS figures out how this demand can be fulfilled, let us keep both our fingers and legs crossed. *Adieu.*

As part of their evaluation and appraisal process, the consultants all expressed great interest in visiting some SPGS-supported communities. The IDL consultants visited Nabukonge community, who are planting pines and eucalypts in Nabukonge CFR in Masaka. The next community proved more of a challenge - as anyone will know who has visited the Muzira community, planting on Muzira hill in Bushenyi. The team managed to climb that steep hill where the community has planted over 50ha of pines. The consultants were shocked to see communities planting like commercial clients and had an interesting discussion with some of the planters.



RECPA community members with Alex in their pine planting at Ntungamo, Oct. 2008.



Your Association is Growing

by Mike Nsereko

Over the last few months, the Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA) has been able to accomplish a number of undertakings in its quest to create change towards improvement and promotion of commercial plantation forestry in the country. In the first place, we carried out a cost evaluation study to determine the current cost of establishing a forest plantation on a hectare by hectare basis. This was done in order for UTGA to engage SPGS to review the amount of subsidy given to planters to reflect the prevailing costs involved in forest establishment. The study report has been forwarded to SPGS and we wait for the response.

Secondly, UTGA has formulated a 3-year strategic plan, detailing the objectives of the Association and how it intends to achieve these objectives. The plan has already been presented to the UTGA Executive Committee for discussion and approval. It now awaits discussion and approval by the UTGA General Assembly - which is slated for March, 2009.

UTGA membership continues to grow at an impressive rate. In the last six months alone, membership to the association has almost tripled thanks to the efforts that have been put into recruitment of new members. We are hopeful that membership will continue to grow in 2009.

UTGA took over the mantle of importing quality seed for its members from SPGS. In that regard, we imported clonal seed orchard PCH seed in Nov.'08 from Forest Plantations Queensland. The seed was sold to UTGA members at very favorable prices. We hope to import more seed in 2009 (though this depends on availability). Members are urged to make their seed bookings as early as possible to enable us plan better.

UTGA has also been heavily involved in the process of discussing with the donors (and SPGS management) how we can work together during Phase II of the SPGS project. We are also developing a proposal to the donor community to explore avenues for funding UTGA, especially in areas of institutional support and development as well as acquisition of inputs and value addition to our products – especially thinning material. We are hopeful that the donors will support our proposal.

UTGA together with SPGS has been involved in student placements to UTGA Members' plantations as part of their study requirements. These students who are mainly from Nyabyeya Forestry College have been doing internships on our members' plantations which has enabled them to gain practical skills in plantation forestry. This is important for the growth of the sector because it creates a pool of trained people who will be employed to run

the plantations better. Special thanks go to Mr. Jossy Byamah, Mr. Robert Bariho, Dr. Peter Ngategize and Mr. Obed Tugumisirize all of whom have taken on students for placement on their plantations [read more on page 5 – Ed.].

Finally, on the 4/12/2008, UTGA met with members of Parliament's Natural Resources Committee. We made a presentation to the Committee about the status of the sector detailing the potential of the commercial forestry, the milestones so far achieved, the challenges being faced and the proposed way forward. The Committee promised to extend its support to the sector.

My last word goes to all tree growers out there. You have a home and that home is UTGA. Come join our Association and we push forward together. For further inquiries, call us on 0772- 979824 or email nserekomike@yahoo.com or miken@sawlog.ug

From pg 6

TREE NURSERIES

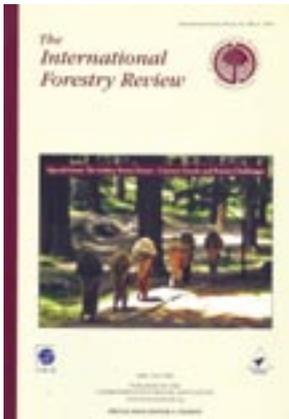
Without these modern tree nurseries, Uganda faces challenges in producing sufficient quality seedlings and also in competing with other countries in attracting commercial plantation investors. Many investors interested in establishing timber plantations do not wish to go into the nursery business, though in the current environment they might be forced too. It's a common practice in many countries that people investing in plantations only focus their minds on the establishment and maintenance of their plantations and order seedlings from commercial tree nurseries.

It's unfortunate that at the moment a serious forest investor would find no tree nursery that can meet such huge demand and quality needed. Quite a number of Ugandans have now experienced such nurseries on the SPGS Southern African safaris but for most "seeing is believing" and thus we believe that there is a need to encourage the establishment of improved tree nurseries in Uganda. The jury is still out on how this will happen here.

PUBLICATIONS



The 2008 issues of the **INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY REVIEW** arrived in quick succession on our desks. This is a Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA) publication, being truly 'international' in its scope and always interesting and informative. Vol. 10, No.2 contains 300+ pages – comprising 25 papers by Indian forestry experts from a recent workshop held in New Delhi entitled – *The Indian Forest Sector – Current Trends & Future Challenges*. This covers a lot of ground and your reviewer cannot claim to have read it from cover to cover (as yet anyway). However, it clearly will be of great interest to those wanting to gain experience from countries (like India) who have a rich history of scientific forest management, participatory forestry and of course, large eucalypt plantations.



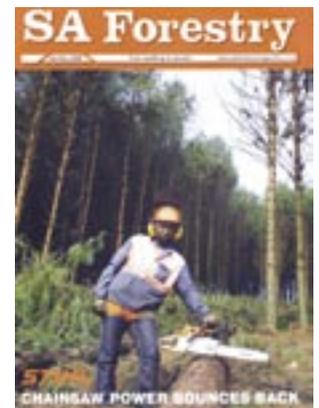
IFR Vol.10, No.3 is the CFA's contribution to the hot topic of the moment – REDD (see later review of *The Little REDD Book*). It is based on the presentations and discussions at an international workshop in Paris in Nov.'07 (organised by CIRAD, amongst others). IFR Vol.10, No.4 returns to the normal format with a wide range of articles and reviews: highlights include:

- *An Overview of History & Development of Forest Policy and Legislation in Uganda* (by our very own Makerere University's N. Turyahabwe and A.Y. Banana).
- *Biofuels From Dedicated Tropical Plantation Forests* (by A. Gabus & A. Hawthorne).
- Plus - very interesting articles on the China's revolutionary (meant in the apolitical sense, of course) forestry programmes and on the importance of Mediterranean forests and the major threats to them largely due to climate change and fires.

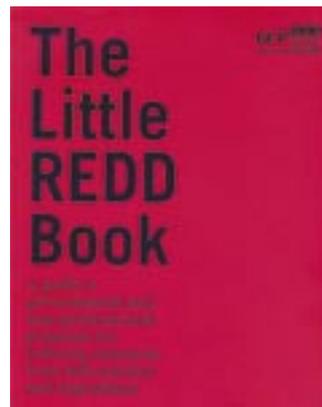
Want your own copy? Then join the CFA: email celian@sawlog.ug for details of how to join in Uganda or visit www.cfa-international.org

The Nov/Dec '08 **SA FORESTRY** is full of useful practical information on the commercial forest industry in South Africa. Whilst it might be a while before we see some of the mechanised harvesting

equipment on show operating in Uganda, there is plenty to interest growers here. For example, there is an article on some entrepreneurial ladies starting their own forestry contracting businesses; also an interesting feature on mechanical pitting using a motorized, hand-held Stihl auger. A 2-man team could do 2,200 pits per day apparently.

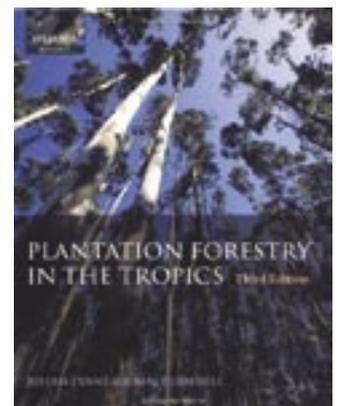


THE LITTLE REDD BOOK is a useful book (kindly donated to the SPGS by Bill Farmer) which was rushed off the printing press to coincide with the Poznan meeting (see page 14). It was compiled by the Global Canopy Programme, which is an alliance of 37 scientific institutions in 19 countries. It summarizes many proposals from governments and NGOs and is a welcome attempt to gaining a consensus on how to reduce global emissions from deforestation and degradation. It is



available at www.littleREDDbook.org [For those readers wondering what on earth this REDD talk is all about – see Bill Farmer's article on page 14 of this SPGS News - Ed.]

And finally, our regular readers will know that if there is one publication we recommended to be on your book-shelf, it is **PLANTATION FORESTRY IN THE TROPICS** (3rd Edn., 2004) by Julian Evans and John Turnbull. We have just received a fresh batch from the UK and they will be available - on a first come, first served basis - at cost price UGX150,000.





PESTS & DISEASES UPDATE

Welcome to the SPGS's Pests & Diseases Clinic. The doctor on duty is Makerere's Philip Nyeko: the patients have formed two orderly lines whilst waiting for treatment - one for eucalypts, the other for pines.

PINES: we have received numerous reports from growers concerned about a sudden yellowing and the eventual death of individuals and groups of pines up to 2-3 years old (see photo). Some of these are attributed to poor seedlings (whose roots never developed properly or were damaged in the nursery) and poor planting (with the tree being 'stuffed' into the ground, thereby damaging the roots). But we also think that some of the deaths could be due to a fungal agent, like *Armillaria*. Over to Philip:

Doctor's prognosis: we are trying to identify the causal agent in the laboratory but at this stage have not found *Armillaria*.

[NB. We also recently found in Masaka some young pines (PCH) with a tip dieback (see photo) that we have also asked Philip to investigate - Ed.]

EUCALYPTS: the main concern is BGC (the Blue Gum Chalcid wasp, *Leptocybe invasa*).

Dr Nyeko: with BGC the best advice is to follow the SPGS's clear guidelines on carefully matching species with suitable sites and also ensuring the trees are not under stress - particularly from weed competition or delayed thinning. For a longer-term solution to BGC, I have just returned from Israel, where I attended (thanks to SPGS support) a training course on biological control of BGC.

Following on from the success they have had with controlling another eucalypt gall wasp, *Ophelimus maskelli* (a species identified around the Mediterranean area but



Shoot dieback of PCH in Masaka: cause unknown but under investigation!



Group deaths of PCH in Mukono: a fungal agent suspected but not yet identified.

not yet in Eastern or Southern Africa - we hope), Israeli scientists have now identified some natural enemies of BGC. These parasitic wasps have been successfully raised (and released) and initial results are very positive in Israel. Following the week's training course, the parasitic wasps were offered to other countries: participants from South Africa, India, Italy and China took them back with them. In Uganda we need to obtain permission from the right authorities first but I strongly recommend that we do so very soon.

In recognition of the importance of P&D matters to commercial tree growers, we are going to include a regular page in the SPGS News - Ed.

DID YOU KNOW?

The cones of North American redwood trees - and of many pine species, will not release their seeds unless the cones are first cooked in a forest fire (though if the fire is too hot it will burn them up completely!).

Approximately 90% of all forest fires are caused by human carelessness.

A tree-line is the height above sea level at which trees cannot grow.

A common myth is that trees can heal wounds. Trees cannot restore injured tissues in the same spatial position. When trees are injured or infected they chemically strengthen the boundary between injured and healthy tissue, forming a new anatomical and chemical zone, which separates the infected wood from the healthy wood. This is called compartmentalization.

Hospitalized patients whose rooms face trees are 8% more likely to heal faster and require less pain-killers, if compared to similar patients with no view of trees.

So...people who plant trees not only become healthier, but are generally better looking, richer and have more friends (well maybe that's stretching things a bit!).

A CALL TO THE WORLD'S FORESTERS



By Martin Parry (Grantham Institute and Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London)

Chosen by Bill Farmer as the key speech at Poznan.

What we are discussing here today is hugely important for two reasons: 1) because we now know that very stringent action indeed is needed to reduce emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHG); and 2) that implementation of this action is very urgent, much more urgent than we had previously thought. Only if forestry is brought into the equation can we hope to implement strong and timely action.

The report in 2007 of the Working Group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which I co-chaired with Dr Canziani, showed unequivocally what will happen if we do not succeed in curbing climate change: millions of people, especially the poor, young and elderly, will be at risk from increased water shortage, hunger and coastal flooding. The numbers potentially affected are awesome: 2 to 3 billion people critically short of water, tens of millions in Asia's mega-deltas exposed to flooding from sea-level rise, and in Africa's arid and semi-arid areas millions more at risk of increasing drought and reduced crop yields.

Even if one was not moved to action on humanitarian grounds, as specialists in forest management, you will know of the large scale of projected impacts on biodiversity: 20-30% of terrestrial species at increasing risk of extinction with 1.5 to 2.5°C increases in global temperature; and 40-70% for over 3.5°C increases. In Amazonia, the expectation is that 45% of species could be lost for a 4°C temperature increase; and in the Brazilian savanna region (the cerrado) a quarter of tree species would be committed to extinction with a 2°C warming. **These are massive transformations, not a thin sprinkling of impacts.**

We have long known that there are two complementary actions that need to be taken: to reduce GHG emissions (mitigation) and to reduce vulnerability to impacts (adaptation). We set ourselves targets at Kyoto 10 years ago, but we have only talked about action and not actually taken any substantive action. Emissions not only are increasing but they are increasing to increase: i.e. they are accelerating. **The window of opportunity for effective action to remedy the situation is now very small indeed:** to keep below a 2°C increase in average global temperatures above pre-industrial levels we need to cut 1990-level emissions **by 80 per cent** (which would give at least a 4-to-1 chance of not exceeding 2°C. A 50 per cent cut would be insufficient, giving us only a 1 in 2 chance of avoiding 2°C warming, which is surely not an acceptable risk.

Additionally, this is urgent. **We need to act now, ensuring a global emissions peak in 2015 and reducing emissions progressively thereafter** (at about

6% annually to achieve 80% by 2050, and then continuing this reduction through to 2100).

Delay could be disastrous: For every 10 years that the global peak in emissions is delayed we estimate that temperature in 2100 will be 0.5°C higher (thus, while an 80% cut starting now with peak emissions in 2015 should leave us below 2°C, delaying action by 10 years and with emissions peaking in 2025 would lead to 2.5°C warming by 2100, and delaying 20 years to peak in 2035 would lead to about 3°C increase by 2100). That is why agreement at Copenhagen in 2009 is so urgent: it gives us just 5 years of action to slow emissions down rapidly and to enable global GHG emissions to peak within 5 years (2015).

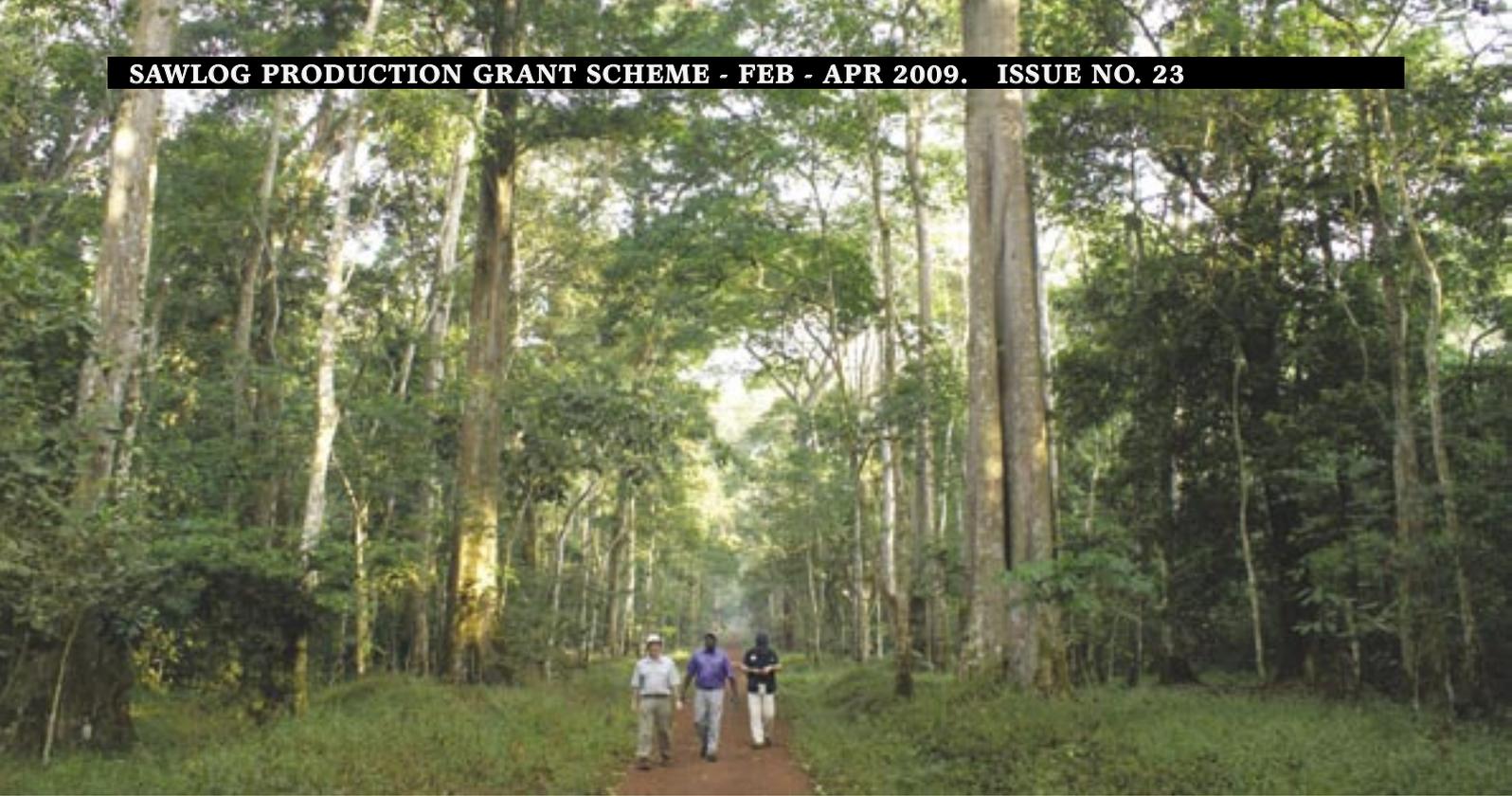
Without incorporating forests in a mitigative strategy, we cannot possibly meet such a stringent and urgent target. **It is crucial to reduce the 17 % of global GHG emissions due to forestry;** or we are making the task impossibly hard for ourselves.

Moreover, reducing GHG emissions by reducing deforestation is probably the largest 'win-win' mitigation action we can take: it is something we wish to do now, anyway, regardless of the threat of climate change. Brasil, for example, could meet a target of reducing its emissions by 60% solely by ensuring the end of net deforestation in that country.

And, in closing, let me return to the question of impacts of climate change on forests: you will recall the IPCC's conclusion that the poorest people of the world (among these the indigenous forest peoples) will be the most at risk; that large areas of NE Amazonia could be exposed to drying and consequent forest reduction, with consequent risks that it becomes a net carbon source rather than the carbon sink it is now. **The impacts on biodiversity and forest peoples are potentially enormous.** We must include in our global adaptation plan, a strategy to protect these most vulnerable peoples and habitats.

It is quite clear, then, that sustainable forestry at a global level must become part of a global climate plan, both to enable us to achieve our mitigation targets and to avoid serious impacts on forest regions. I end by repeating my initial comments: *you cannot over-estimate the importance of this task. While we used to think of climate change as possibly affecting our grandchildren, we now know that it is happening now, and that impacts from it are now being felt by people.*

We have left ourselves a lot to do in a short time, to cut 1990-level emissions by 80% by 2050, starting immediately. We cannot possibly achieve our mitigation target without transforming global forest trends. **We cannot achieve a sustainable world climate without a sustainable world forest.**



“There is a grandeur in this view of life.....from so simple a beginning, endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being created” (the final paragraph of Charles Darwin’s The Origin of Species – published 150 years ago). This is the stunning Royal Mile at Budongo Forest, generally regarded as the single best bird-watching site in Uganda. Also a great antidote to row after row of pine trees! – Ed.

SPGS/CFA WORKSHOP

Opportunities for Private Sector Investment in Commercial Forestry in East Africa is the theme for an important meeting in Uganda scheduled for 22-24th April, 2009. It will be organized and financed jointly between the SPGS and the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA). It is clear that both organizations share common objectives – namely, to increase the awareness of the major role plantation forestry can play in development, as well as promotion of regional collaboration. Areas of particular focus will be communication, research and training. The meeting will have a strong regional presence, with key people from Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Southern Sudan, which will enable us to highlight common issues. To ensure the meeting keeps its focus and becomes more than just a talking shop, attendance is strictly by invite only. If you think you should be there, please contact Celia Nalwadda (chief organizer) on celian@sawlog.ug

Hot off the press is the latest **SPGS – Frequently Asked Questions (v.4)**. If you want to know how the project works, this is a good a place as any to start. Pick your free copy at the SPGS office or download it from www.sawlog.ug

TRAINING UPDATE

So much to tell you about trainingso little space!

- **Forestry Contractor** courses to begin Feb. 2009 (see page 4).
- 23 trainees attended the **Plantation Planning & Establishment** course held at Kasunga Tea Training Centre, Kyenjojo from 8-11th Dec. '08. The best student was **Mr. Obita Samuel Cyrus** from Nileply, who went home clutching a copy of *Plantation Forestry in the Tropics* by Evans & Turnbull.
- 22 keen trainees also made it to the most recent **Plantation Planning & Establishment** course, this time based in Luwero from 2nd to 5th Feb.'09. Participants were all prospective clients for the next phase of the SPGS.
- **Fire Protection:** a no. of 1-day practical courses are being run in Feb.'09 – Hoima (1st), Gulu (16th) and Mubende (24th).
- **Next Planning & Establishment course** – 4-7th May, 2009: book now!
- Contact Josephine for further information.

NB. Next Clients' Meeting(s) - see p.8

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- **Regional Reports** from SPGS/CFA meeting.
- **All Aboard!** Tales from the 2009 SPGS tour to South Africa and Swaziland.
- **A lifetime in forestry in Uganda:** Jossy Byamah tells all.

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