



COMPANY HIGHLIGHT

HIGHLIGHTS

Forestry Summer School

by Geoffrey Kessy

CMO's Summer School

CMO of South Africa organizes an annual forestry engineering course for young professionals to expose them to different aspects of forest engineering. KVTC allowed me to attend the course which was an exciting opportunity

Venue of the course was George in the W-Cape of South Africa. Part of the course was classroom based and machine simulation training, but the bulk took place in field at different forestry companies (MTO and PG Bison), equipment manufacturers (Husqvarna, Bell, Mercedes Benz) and forestry contractors.

Course Modules

The following are some of the key topics covered in the course

1. Planning of harvestings operations and managing high risks which has impacts on SPEQS (Safety, Productivity, Environment, Quality and Social), strategic, tactical, annual and compartment planning.
2. Selection of harvesting systems at exposure using the SPEQS criteria and costings.

3. Costing of harvesting systems, machines and productivity assessments.
4. Selection of harvesting equipment and machines, timber transport and logistics, maintenance and servicing.
5. Forest roads maintenance, financial and environmental impacts on forest roads management.

Reflection

The experience has changed my approach the daily work and I gained exposure on the aspects of forestry engineering, harvesting, haulage, forest roads management and financial implications of each.

The course also exposed me to, non-work and new environments like tourism areas around George and Knysna, shopping malls, beaches and even a visit to the oldest and biggest tree in RSA ± 800 years old *Podocarpus falcatus* in Outeniqua.

Interested?

For more information about CMO's Forestry Summer School contact CMO's Andrew McEwan: andrew@cmogroup.net

Neema | CRAFTS

Neema Crafts Centre

We like to highlight the great work of one of our customers and partners in Iringa, Tanzania.

Neema Crafts Centre was founded in 2003 by the Diocese of Ruaha, to provide training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the Iringa region of Tanzania

Neema's artisans make some lovely wooden carvings, lamps and furniture from KVTC's teak. Access their online shop [here](#) or have a look at their workshop and products through their Instagram handle @neemacrafts



OSP Seminar

In the last newsletter we announced the upcoming OSP seminar. This took place as planned and around 450 growers attended the seminar. The District Commissioner of Kilombero officiated the seminar.

We like to thank our partners of Tanzania Forest Service, The Kilombero District, NMB Bank and CRDB Bank for participating and supporting the seminar.

From Hans' desk

by Hans Lemm

As another year is coming to a close we are proud to report that KVTC continues to grow and will exceed last year's results. This is no small feat in an increasingly complex operating environment (also see our alarm bell in the article below) and it underscores the efforts and dedication of our staff, contractors and partners.

The last quarter of 2018 has been tough with delayed rains and consequently we had to engage in challenging forest fire fighting efforts which unfortunately resulted in a serious injury to one of our members of staff who is currently recovering in hospital in DsM.

We wish him a speedy recovery and hope he will soon be with his family back home.

Markets are going through some turmoil with local markets slowing down and some of our products experiencing price pressure in export markets.

Despite these difficulties we continue to invest in our business and in our core asset, our people. You can read in our feature article about the Forestry Summer School experience that Geoffrey had. We are also working with our Union Reps on changes in working hours allowing for more time off and to improve facilities at the industrial site that will hopefully take effect in 2019.

This then leaves me with wishing you all a blessed Christmas and a Happy 2019 in which we will make sure to continue sharing with you the developments of KVTC.



KVTC's Nakafulu Plantation on Google Earth showing the loss of forest cover around the FMU.

OSP PURCHASES 2018

In 2017 KVTC started purchasing logs from Outgrowers and the second half of 2018 we saw a significant increase. This year we bought close to 1,000m³ from external growers creating revenues in excess of TZS 250m for farmers, contractors and authorities. We hope to increase our volumes in 2019

LISTEN TO US

RADIO MITIKI

On Radio Pambazuko at 89.5FM

Every Friday at 07.30pm and every Saturday at 07.30am

Illegal Logging and Encroachment

by Joseph John, Kennedy Haule & Hans Lemm

A worrying trend

KVTC manages approximately 20,000ha of conservation land consisting of Miombo woodlands (16,000ha) and grass- and wetlands (4,000ha).

The success of KVTC's conservation efforts can be clearly seen on Google Earth where KVTC's forest areas stick out and whilst deforestation in the surrounding areas has reached alarming levels KVTC's forests are relatively intact.

The downside of this success is that we see increasing levels of illegal logging both in our teak plantations as well as the natural forests.

Aside of illegal logging we are experiencing increasing levels of encroachment by pastoralists into our teak plantations causing significant damage to, in particular, the young plantings.

The Impact

KVTC prides itself of the quality of the woodlands we manage and we can see a clear positive impact in terms of rainfall and water quality across our estates. The conservation of the woodlands creates a mini-climate that makes our teak trees thrive.

Without our natural forests and without young plantings our business will see diminished growth resulting in loss of employment and revenues, including taxes.

Urgent Call for Support

Through this note in our newsletter we like to bring the urgency of the situation to the attention of the authorities and our stakeholders and call on their support to curb the current trend and ensure that KVTC's conservation areas and plantations are safe from illegal activities.

KVTC employs approximately 30 game scouts across its property however the sheer scale of incursion is such that without support of the authorities (Tanzania Forest Service, Wildlife Management Authorities, District Authorities) we are not able to control the situation.

CONTACT US

CONTACT US OR LOOK US UP:
kvtc@kvtc-tz.com / <http://kvtc-tz.com/>

PO Box 655, Ifakara, TZ

PO Box 12452, Dar es Salaam, TZ