



COMPANY HIGHLIGHT

HIGHLIGHTS

The Staff Canteen

by James Njaala

Food at last

KVTC management jointly with the local union leadership initiated the idea of a staff canteen where staff are provided with breakfast and lunch. Construction of the canteen which cost about 70 million shillings was completed in May 2019.

Why canteen?

The canteen is serving as an important meeting point for all staff based at the Mavimba site during the break hours while getting freshly made meals. The provision of food at KVTC is important especially, as most of the staff have to walk a long way to reach the workplace. The canteen facility ensures that everyone is having the opportunity to get recharged twice in a day.

The Impact?

Staff are benefiting from it as they are now able to save what they were using to cater for meals while at work. They now have more money to spend at home with their families. Having the facility to eat something nourishing right at their working place, they will not be obliged to bring along home-prepared lunch packets. This should help add more value to the company's operations in terms of productivity; staff welfare; time management; staff monthly income; work-

life balance and; improve company's health and safety by reducing accidents and injuries due to hunger.

The preparation of the meals at KVTC takes place in the integrated kitchen at the canteen building. The proximity of the cooking and serving areas will ensure that good quality dishes are provided. Additionally, the two covered roofs alongside the kitchen will offer even more free open spaces for staff to take their meals while relishing the natural fresh air from the natural forest surrounding the sawmill.



Canteen and its outside sitting area

Natural woodland Project

by Demetrius Kweka

In December 2018 we reported the challenges in managing our natural miombo woodland and plantations. In this quarter, the KVTC has figured out a solution: thus, signed an agreement with Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) to create what is seen as the best suitable sustainable conservation solution around the encroached 16,000ha plus of natural miombo woodland around Nakafulu block C area. The initiative is based on harvestable quota that could be sustainably harvested and sold without jeopardizing conservation of existing forest. The amount harvested could be shared in a special benefit sharing agreement between community, KVTC and Government of Tanzania which KVTC believes will improve protection around the natural woodland by increasing tangible (income) incentives to the surrounding communities.

MCDI model has been praised for delivering tangible social benefits to communities and protecting the forests. KVTC will draw upon MCDI conservation experience, tools and best practices in community engagement. This set up will result in FSC-compliant Forest Management and Harvesting Plan while both organizations will leverage the spike of their respective model to support the improvement of the other's environmental and financial sustainability.

From Irvine's desk

by Irvine Kanyemba

My first full quarter at KVTC has been a hectic but extremely enjoyable one. We experienced an extremely wet month of May and had to shut down our harvesting operations. The rains stopped as abruptly as they had started and all operations are now back to normal. The four sawmills that buy logs from us are all up and running again

The Indian market has stabilised somewhat. Our order book is quite healthy. The local market picked up and we hope it stays that way. There are very promising prospects in Rwanda which we are excited about.

The Natural Woodland Management project got off the ground. We are very excited about this project as it is an innovative model for sustainable management of natural forest resources by communities. This will also help strengthen KVTC's close bonds with the neighbouring communities and local government leadership

The staff canteen at Mavimba opened at the end of May. The canteen is serving breakfast and lunch to about 150 employees every working day. It has been welcomed by all employees and will definitely improve employee morale and productivity

We all look forward to an even more challenging and exciting next quarter.



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

VILLAGE CONTRACTS-FOREST PROTECTION TOOL

On average, KVTC spend more than TZS 100million each year for forest protection through village contracts. These figure add up to KVTC's commitment to engage community in its operations. However the sheer scale of incursion is such that without support of the authorities we are not able to control the situation

We would like to extend our appreciation to the support of Ulanga District officials in sensitizing pastoralists and other offenders on the importance of the land use plan and its implementation during a one week series of meetings with respective villagers that was organized by KVTC

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RADIO MITIKI

On Radio Pambazuko at 89.5FM

Every Friday at 07.30pm and every Saturday at 07.30am

KVTC Social Fund

by Kennedy Haule and Demetrius Kweka

The Social Fund is a novel way to provide continuous support to communities that have granted land to KVTC for its forestry and processing operations. KVTC's social fund objective is to assist community development and to improve the quality of life of the people around KVTC's operational area. The concept of the social fund is that annually KVTC will make available a sum of money towards a selected community project in each of the associated villages. The social fund started with nine villages in two districts but now has expanded to 17 villages in three Districts.

Funding made available through the social fund is deposited into joint accounts and will only be released to finance approved projects that have been scrutinized and agreed by both parties. Social fund priority areas are projects related to health care, education, water supply, and resource and skill development linked to economic development.

The Impact

A total amount of TZS 871,885,890 (approx. 511,634) has been disbursed through the Social Fund program since 2004. The biggest-

share of social fund expenditures went to fund school and associated school projects.

Check and Balance

As part of the checks and balances, the community social fund projects are presented annually to a stakeholder consultative meeting. KVTC participate in Village General Assemblies as part of periodic follow ups on implementation of projects and only releasing funds once satisfied with project progress. A village notice board was also used in each participating village to display ongoing projects on KVTC social fund. It was also agreed that the social fund be audited by the local Government auditor and report being submitted to KVTC.

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