

Busoga Forestry Company Ltd

Public Summary

Busoga Forestry Company Limited (BFC) is a subsidiary company of Green Resources AS of Norway, a plantation, carbon offset, forest products and renewable energy company. The Company was established in 1996 and is a private, profit oriented Norwegian company.

The objectives of the company are:

- To establish and sustainably manage commercial forest plantations in order to produce forest products for domestic use and export.
- Carbon sequestration.
- Environmental conservation and social economic development to the surrounding area.
- To reduce pressure on existing natural forest by providing alternative source of wood and related forest products.

Ownership and Management Responsibilities:

Busoga Forestry Co. Ltd (BFC) is fully owned by Busoga Forestry Company Limited a Ugandan subsidiary of Green Resources AS of Norway. BFC is responsible for the establishment and management of forest plantations for carbon offsets, quality forest products and renewable energy. The company acquired a permit of fifty years from the Government of Uganda for forestry development in Bukaleba and Kachung Central Forest Reserve (CFR).

Watershed and Drainage

Bukaleba CFR lies on the eastern shores of lake where a statutory 200m buffer zone is maintained to protect the lake. There are only two streams coming out of the reserve one flowing southwards to the Kidibule Bay in L. Victoria and the second one the Namwange stream which flows Northwards to Thruston Bay through Bukaleba Forest Station. There are no active streams in Kachung CFR.

The two seasonal streams within the project area will be protected with a statutory buffer zone and, where necessary planted with indigenous tree species to enhance their environmental values. Ground cover such as grasses and shrubs close to these areas will be kept in order to reduce erosion and maintain biodiversity.

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The activities of BFC are undertaken on land gazetted as a CFR and the rules and regulations governing management of such a resource apply. CFRs are held in trust of Government of Uganda for the people of Uganda according to the Land Act of 1998 stated in Article 237 of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

The Local Communities in the neighborhoods are of many tribes. The main economic activity of local communities is fishing and subsistence agriculture. The main food crops mainly grown are maize, beans, potatoes, millet, rice, cassava, tomatoes etc. These are mainly grown for home consumption and the surplus sold.

Growth and Yield Monitoring

The current growth and yield models for *Pinus caribaea* and *Eucalyptus saligna* for Forestry Department Plantation are used by BFC, until up to such a time when own yield tables have been developed that are specific to the site through our inventory data gathered during the first rotation.

Permanent sample plots (PSPs)

These have been established and maintained mainly to monitor volume increment and the quality of the crop in relation to the objectives of management in the plantation. Diameter at breast height (dbh), tree height, and other parameters are measured and monitored.

In the natural forest belts, the Forest Resource Management and Conservation Program (FRMCP) developed a manual for setting up, assessing and regular maintenance of the physical PSPs infrastructure. The FRMCP manual will be followed by project staff in collaboration with NFA during implementation in the natural forest belts (river buffer zones).

Protection and Management

Fire Protection and Policy

Due to the grassland nature of the area fires are a common problem. For effective fire control a fire plan is implemented which includes fire prevention, suppression, and reporting strategies to ensure effective management. This includes infrastructure such as watch towers, access roads, water points, vehicles and fire fighting equipments.

Insects and diseases:

Currently the major pest attacking eucalyptus in the field is the blue gum calcid (*liptocybe invasa*) which usually attacks during the stress periods when soil moisture is low and under competition with weed also a

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high incidence of termite attack on Eucalyptus trees has been reported and efforts are being made to contain the pest. Up to now there has been no major outbreak of diseases or insect attack in the nurseries.

Law enforcement:

Offences like setting fire to the plantation, grazing and encroachment shall be resolved through dialogue and community sensitization as far as practicable or using the existing legal mechanisms.

Yield Regulation and Allowable cut

Sustained Yield

Yield regulation is by volume with an estimated volume of 37-42 m³/Ha available for removal as thinnings in stands planted at a spacing of (3x3) m. Pines in Uganda at final felling usually yield between 395 – 580 m³/Ha. The annual allowable cut shall be established basing on the available resource, demand and supply forces while applying principles of sustainable forest management.

Management of other Natural Habitats and High Conservation Value Forests

Protection of the environment and water sources, in particular is an important function that is carefully addressed during the management plan period. The natural forests, thickets, and other bushes, which are in close proximity to the streams, springs and other water bodies especially those that provide water all year round, will be protected to ensure that water yield and quality is not diminished. 100m of natural vegetation shall along either side of such water bodies shall not be cleared. This is the recommended buffer zone by NEMA for big rivers and 10m for streams. Biodiversity will be protected here where the natural vegetation is still intact and capable of natural regeneration to sustain its existence.

- These areas will be managed with collaboration with key stakeholders to ensure that their conservation values are enhanced through restoration (enrichment planting) where necessary. This will provide the basis for the conservation of biodiversity (including RTE species);
- Wildlife population movement if any will be monitored in order to identify specific corridors in the plantation as a basis for wildlife conservation;
- Seasonal assessments will be performed to consider the seasonality of different taxa;

Biodiversity Inventory and Ecological Survey

The project periodically conducts an inventory to establish the biodiversity composition of the natural belts in the project areas. This inventory includes parameters that enable determination of stocking of species for timber

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production and other indicator species such as birds. This provides the basis for measures to enhance attributes of high conservation value forests. Such measures include but not limited to:-

- Enrichment planting where necessary
- Management prescription based on expert advice for any red-listed species (Nationally and Internationally)
- Forest patrols
- Protection from illegal harvesting of rare species.
- Identifying other ecologically sensitive areas to be managed as natural habitats.

Management maps are updated periodically to reflect changes in the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership.

Harvesting system employed is motor manual. This is a combination of chainsaw, loggers, tractors, skidders, winch, machetes, axes, cross-cut saws. The harvesting methods in use are Tree Length (TL) and Cut to Length (CTL) depending on product. A combination of both manual and mechanical logging shall be applied to provide employment to the local communities and also minimize environmental impacts that might arise as a result of using either one of them in isolation.

Project Locations:

Map of Uganda showing the location of Bukaleba Central Forest Reserve - Mayuge District and Kachung Central Forest Reserve - Dokolo District relative to the Industrial site, Masese - Jinja District

