

PUBLIC SUMMARY

NILE FIBREBOARD LIMITED

KIKONDA FOREST RESERVE – KYANKWANZI



FACTORY SITE

**PLOT NO.23, BURULI- KINONI
P. O. BOX 325, LUWEERO(U),
NAKASONGOLA DISTRICT.**

PLANTATION SIDE

**HOIMA—KAMPALA HIGHWAY
P. O. BOX 290, HOIMA (U),
KYANKWANZI DISTRICT.**

Email: kikondaforestreserve@nfb.ug

Who we are?

Nile Fiberboards (U) Ltd is one of the most innovative and technologically advanced wood processing companies in Uganda. It is the leading manufacturer of Plain & Laminated MDF boards and High density engineered laminated flooring. Nile Fibreboards (U) Ltd, is situated on Plot 23, Buruli –Kinoni in Nakasongola district.

Our goal is to “provide the customer with what they want, when they want it, where they want it” this simple philosophy has allowed the company to capture the local and international market with good quality Ugandan products. This this is possible by utilizing state of the art technologies and machines following international standards.

Nile Fiberboards Ltd is dedicated in preserving the environment thus introducing a re-forestation program. We have invested in more than 14,000 hectares of land, where we have planted pine and eucalyptus. All the forest reserves are managed in a sustainable manner without hurting the environment and the company’s commitment to the sustainability of forest resources evident from the area of tree cover the company produces year after year!

As a part of our commitment to sustainable growth, in 2020 company invested heavily in acquiring a forest reserve in the tunes of 12,186 hectors of planted pine forest reserve owned by M/s. Global wood AG, in Kikonda, Hoima.

Nile Fibreboard Limited in Kikonda develops high-quality timber plantations in balance with social and ecological demands and standards. Nile Fibreboard Limited is committed to the principles promoted by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) of environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of forests. To achieve these objectives a comprehensive management system is in place to ensure:

- To plant and manage timber forests for the production of quality timber, poles and panel products.
- To provide a source of quality tree seedlings for its silviculture activities and sale to other timber growers.
- To process timber into high value and quality products for the Uganda and Eastern Africa market.
- To provide a variety of timber and wood-based panel products and become a market pace setter in Uganda and the region

- Build a vibrant self-sustaining, financially efficient and institutional effective Company (Nile Fibreboard Limited).

Any claims that Nile Fibreboard Limited does not meet the standards will be formally investigated. A Complaints Log will be maintained to confirm the complaints made and actions taken.

1 A brief description of:

1.1 Our location and forest resource

Kikonda Forest Reserve (FR) is located in Butemba and Nsambya Sub-counties of Butemba County in Kyankwanzi District. It covers an area of 12,186 hectares and is located on both sides of the Kampala-Hoima highway. The reserve encloses settlements (villages) of Kasambya, Kitangwa, Kihigikwa, Kyakabuga and Wadaaga. It is about 38 km east of Hoima and 40 km west of Kiboga towns respectively, and about 15 km to Kafu River along Hoima-Kiboga main road. It is found at latitudes between 1⁰⁰' and 1⁰¹⁵' north and longitudes of 31⁰ 30' and 31⁰ 45' east.

The external boundaries of the reserve were surveyed, and its boundaries fixed and approved in July 1968 and updated in December 1999 by implementing boundary marks and clearing of the boundary lines.



Figure 1: The location of the Kikonda Forest Reserve within Uganda

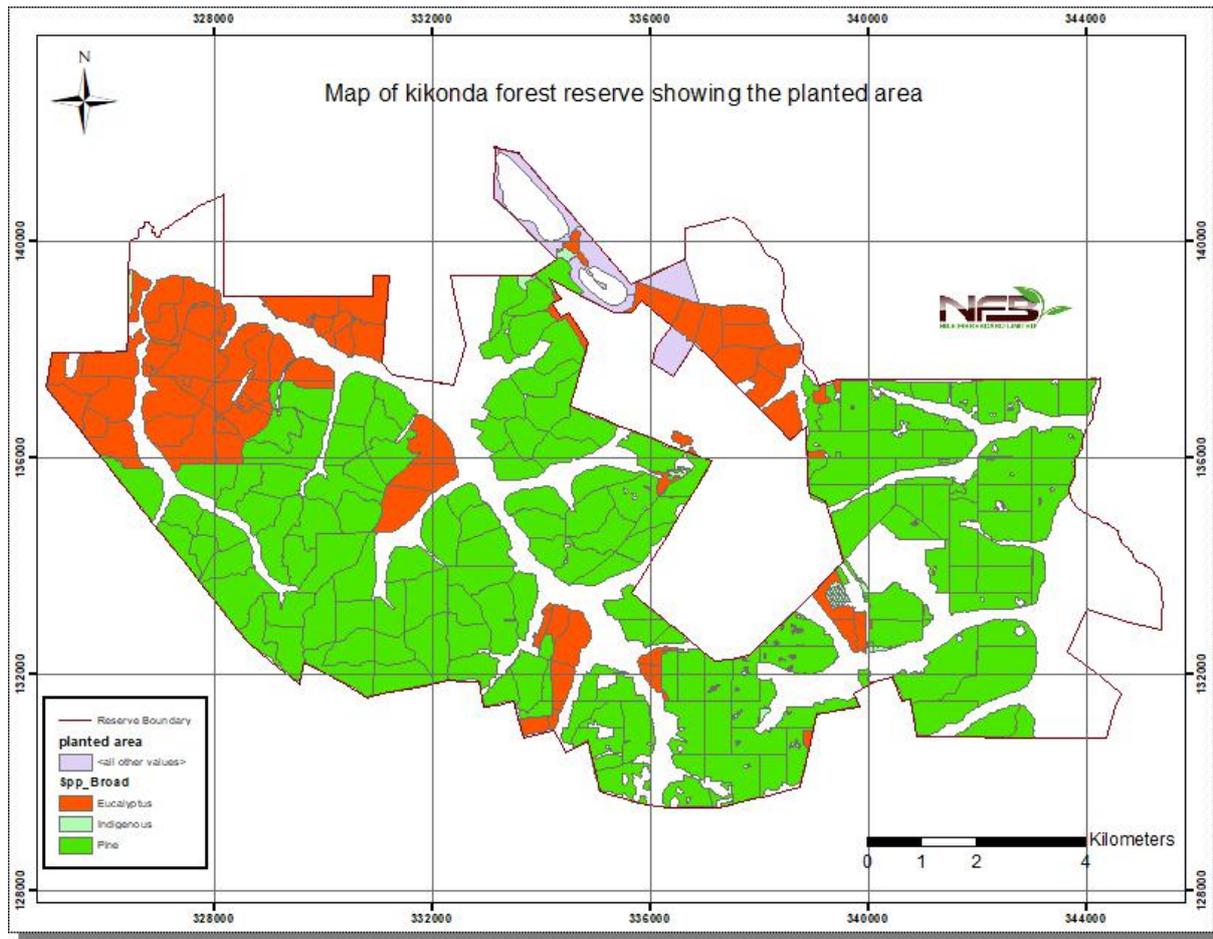


Figure 2: Map of Kikonda Forest Reserve showing the reserve boundaries as well as area planted.

1.2 Environmental factors

The KFR occurs on a flat plain formed by weathering of Singo series type of rock which still remains in the east as prominent projections in the form of hills such as Kawuka and Kikonda to the north-west. The plain has been dissected by valleys that serves as drainage of water to the river Kafu during the rainy seasons. For most of the year these valleys are dry. These valleys are not established with commercial trees but are set aside and maintained as biodiversity corridors to aid in the protection and re-establishment and safe haven for the indigenous fauna, avifauna and flora Kawuka and Kikonda hills rise to 1,295m and 1,265m respectively above sea level (asl). The rest of the KFR lies between 1,067m and 1,127m asl. The land rises gently to the east and north-east. There are no significant environmental limitations that prevents the establishment of trees on the Kikonda Forest Reserve. The climate is favourable throughout the Estate and adverse phenomena such as floods or mudslides does not present a threat as a result of tree establishment.

1.3 Land use and ownership status of the Kikonda Forest Reserve

The land on which NFB is planting trees in Uganda, the Kikonda Central Forest Reserve is owned by the State of Uganda through Uganda Land Commission and administered by the NFA (National Forest Authority). Nile Fibreboard Limited, since 2020, is holding a Tree Farming License that allows the company to plant and harvest trees for a period of 50 years, this includes the time period that global woods AG held the license since 2002.

1.4 Nile Fibreboard Limited and its neighbours

A project of the size of Kikonda affects the lives of a large number of people living in the area. Nile Fibreboard Limited is fully aware of such risk and therefore straight from the beginning has entered into an intensive communication process with the surrounding villages. Doing that, the company constantly learns more about the needs of the communities which is the baseline of making the project a success not only for the company but for the region as such.

More than four different languages are spoken among the workers giving an impression of the cultural heterogeneity at place. It is the intention of the company to promote and facilitate intra-cultural communication amongst the workforce also in order to serve as a role model for a strong cooperation between people with different cultural backgrounds. Social responsibility is a term that is used in various ways having different understandings. For Nile Fibreboard Limited, social responsibility refers to kinds of actions that are taken by the company addressing the global and national (Ugandan) society and natural environment influenced by the actions taken of NFB. The company considers itself as responsible and accountable for its actions and its decisions.

In contrast to the traditional approach to Corporate Social Responsibility, which only integrates the three columns environmental, economic and social concerns into business, Nile Fibreboard Limited's is following a strategic CSR approach, which shift from a tactical and responsive to a long term relationship which is mutually beneficial. Nile Fibreboard Limited integrates this strategic corporate social responsibility (CSR) into its business strategy of its core business objectives and further uses its core competencies to create business values and positive social/environmental values and embeds this approach into its day-to-day business culture and its day-to-day operations. The strategic CSR of Nile Fibreboard Limited is designed to produce profits *and* social benefits for the environment and the communities rather than just profits *or* social benefits.

To assure the effectiveness, the strategic CSR is aligned with two main things, which are the

1.5 core business objectives of Nile Fibreboard Limited

The tangible definition of the core business objectives of Nile Fibreboard Limited, as well as the precise core competencies of the company is defined in the Standard Operation Procedures (SOP's), guidelines and instructions of the company's operational management.

1.6 The land surrounding Nile Fibreboard Limited

The land next to the Kikonda Forest Reserve is a mixture of public land, customary land and private mailo land. The most common land use is small scale agriculture of crops such as maize, beans, cassava combined with rearing of cows and goats. Large flocks of cattle predominantly belong to migrating cattle keepers. The land is flat as the reserve itself but entirely stripped off its natural vegetation and fauna.

2 The rate of annual harvest and commercial species selection at the Kikonda Forest Reserve

2.1 The rate of annual harvest at the Kikonda Forest Reserve

With a rotation age of 18 years the annual cut area will only be 5.6% of the total planted area. This amounts to an area of 476ha. This is to bring the plantation into rotation and allow a sufficient flow of logs to the projected mill and processing facilities. However, in the event of a loss of growing stock like (fire pests or diseases) where it is required to deviate from the plan, the maximum annual clear-cut area shall be no more than 10% of the total planted area (850ha). This level of clear-cut area would not pose a high erosion risk since the plantation lies on a relatively flat area. Furthermore, aesthetical aspects should be respected in such a way that large-scale clear-cut areas shall be avoided next to major roads or settlements.

2.2 Species selection, distribution and optimization at the Kikonda Forest Reserve

Pine (*Pinus caribaea* var. *hondurensis*) is intended to be planted on at least 70% of the plantable area. The initial stocking is 1111 trees per ha. The expected harvest age depends on rate of growth and market development and needs. Until then two thinnings and two pruning operations will be conducted. Weed control is administered through both mechanical and chemical means.

Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus grandis*, hybrids) is intended to be planted on up to 30 % of the plantable area. The initial stocking is 1111 trees per ha. Thinning, pruning and harvest schedule will be optimised as more data on the local growth rates are available, we are however doing trials of a higher spacing at planting of stocking 2,500 spha, the idea is to use the first thinning for MDF. Weed control is administered through both mechanical, manual and chemical means.

Matching species to site was done based on guidelines and surveys conducted by the National Forestry Authority and the Sawlog Production Grant scheme.

On top of that trials were conducted with Pine and Eucalyptus as well as other species (*Maesopsis eminii*, *Araucaria cunninghamii*, etc.). These trials are still ongoing and integrated into a nation-wide scheme. It is the intention of NFB to increase the share of species other than the main Pine and Eucalyptus.

The annual planting target of NFB is 500 ha but may vary according to the climatic conditions for the specific season. Based on an assumption of setting at least app. 10% of the total area aside for nature conservation.

Year of planting	Plan	Actual Area (Ha)
2002-2010	2624	2,629.5
2011	1500	495.1
2012	1500	431.5
2013	1500	971.4
2014	1500	911.0
2015	1500	1,092.2
2016	1500	991.6
2017	558	1,024.0
2018	27.6	27.7
2019	40	78.6
2020	0	0.0
2021	300	316.1
Total		8,968.70

Table 1: Planting timeline for the Kikonda Forest Reserve

3 Monitoring our forest growth and dynamics

Forest growth is monitored via a system of over 200 permanent sample plots. The results from the inventories which are conducted on an annual basis are extrapolated via a growth model designed for Uganda.

4 Environmental safeguard based on environmental assessments and the monitoring thereof

The plan for the protected areas at Kikonda Forest Reserve (KFR) is guided by the vision to provide a safeguard for those plant and animal communities that are threatened in the greater Kikonda area. To set a baseline in early 2010 an assessment of the flora and fauna of the KFR was conducted by EACL environmental consultants, Kampala and in mid-2011 this assessment was refined and analysed by Dr. James Kalema, Botanist and Conservation Specialist of Makerere University, Kampala. The major result of the assessment was that no High Conservation Value Forest can be found in the KFR. Core findings of their assessment are integrated into this document, the full reports can be made available on demand. The areas identified as being the most vulnerable to disturbance outside the reserve were natural forests, wetlands and hill slopes. As a voluntary contribution, samples of such areas are earmarked for protection in the KFR, especially if they are a habitat for endangered species. Inside the KFR

natural forest only exists in small patches and in a highly degraded state due to continued illegal logging and grazing unhindered by the authorities. Wetlands in the Kikonda context are areas that are slightly lower than the neighbouring sites and in consequence wet after heavy downpours. They are rated as seasonally flooded or moist wood- or grassland. They are not to be confused with permanent wetlands like Papyrus-swamps, which only exist at a boundary corner of the KFR.

Protection is implemented by delineation, education, and enforcement.

Biodiversity corridors cater for a connectivity of the protected zones allowing exchange and spread of species. The impact of the protection activities is monitored by a revolving survey of transects counting plant and animal species in regular intervals.

All aspects of the plan for the protected areas are constantly discussed with stakeholders such as environmental authorities, local people, scientists, and NGOs. Their feedback will continuously form part of the plan to make it a lasting success.

5 Identification and protection of Rare Threatened and Endangered (RTE) Species

5.1 Identification of RTEs

- An Environment Impact Assessment that was done in 2010 gave the results of general status of the forest management unit in regard to birds mammals and plants, the RTEs were identified, this document came up with many recommendations and the biodiversity monitoring being one of them, this is done in collaboration with experts in those fields
- The annual biodiversity assessments that to identify changes in the flora and fauna and this also captures the data in the RTE species
- The IUCN REDD data list is used to determine the conservation status of all the species found during the biodiversity assessment
- Pictures of the RTEs are printed and displayed on the noticeboards to help everyone to easily identify these species

5.2 Protection of RTEs

- When RTEs are encountered in the areas of operation, the worker must immediately report it to the supervisor who later notifies the forester in charge, and this may be an RTE of any Nature for example, the actual bird or animal sited or a nest.
- Operations in such an area must be discontinued pending clearance from the supervising forester in collaboration with the line manager.

- The area in question is then cordoned off with a reflector tape to prevent accidental destruction of the habitat, of which once it is confirmed that the RTE has moved out then shall the operation continue

Map of Kikonda Forest Reserve showing planted area, set aside area

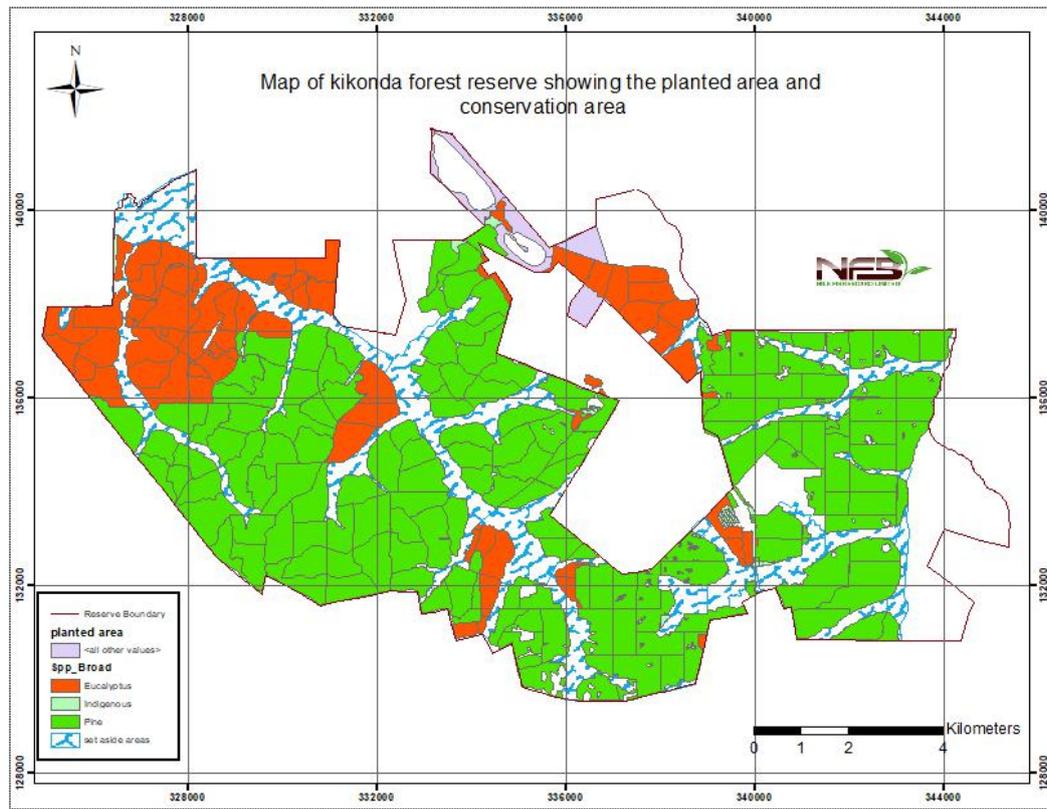


Figure 4: Map showing set aside areas within the Kikonda Forest Reserve

6 Harvesting at the Kikonda Forest reserve

In Kikonda, no forest of High Conservation Value will be logged. The rotation period aimed for is 18 years for Pine and 10-12 years for Eucalyptus. A full tree harvesting method, is used. Trees ready for harvesting is felled, skidded to the roadside, and then crosscut to dimensions. This is done for both Eucalyptus Poles and Pine. This type of system is called a cut to length system and is the preferred method, because of its reduced environmental impacts when compared to other harvesting systems, however, the system may change with new developments in the company. The following operational systems have been selected for different harvesting regimes at Kikonda Forest Reserve:

6.1 Manual Operations

This makes use of manual labour and is applied in small dimension timber usually from thinning operations. Hand tools for cutting is used to fell, debranch, crosscut and /or top trees. Extraction of timber is also done manually with hand tools

6.2 Motor manual Operations

This system involves use of equipment such as chainsaws, tractors in the harvesting operations. It is characterized with a reduced manpower requirement and gives an increased productivity, although it requires some modest level of equipment capital input in comparison to manual operations above. This system is largely be employed in harvesting and thinning of larger dimension timber.

6.3 Mechanized Operations

This system involves use of equipment such as chainsaws, logger and log configured vehicles to transport to the factory in the harvesting operations. It is characterized with heavy dependency on machines and gives an increased productivity, although it requires high equipment capital input in comparison to manual operations above. This system is largely be employed in second thinning and clear felling.

7 Management plan revision

The Management plan is to be fully revised every three (3) years. On a continuous basis, the plan is updated whenever deemed necessary. Updates frequently come from changed/improved field work, new scientific input, or new requirements from certification schemes.

All data obtained from monitoring in terms of tree growth, weather, social impact, environmental impact, and any other monitoring shall be integrated into the revision. The same applies for data obtained from review of scientific papers and communication and knowledge exchange with the professional community.

Revisions are co-ordinated by the Senior Plantation Manager and have to be approved by the General Manager.

Summary of monitoring results for Nile Fibreboard Ltd for 2021

Social

The tracking of the social impact of the company on the communities surrounding KCFR has usually been done through surveys using appropriate data collection methods. In addition, meetings with community members and local authorities are conducted on a continuous basis, their results and follow-up activities being documented. The grievances raised during the studies were dealt with using standard procedures. The major outcome from the surveys and meetings has been that the company has a positive impact in terms of employment and increase in trade volume in the communities. Further the direct community support given continues to be appreciated by the neighbours. In 2020 a stakeholders meeting was held at the company's environmental education centre in February 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to present to the key stakeholders the social development strategy of the company so that the stakeholders present their views on whether it was still relevant or needed to be changed. The representatives of the people present confirmed that the development package was still relevant and therefore needed to continue.

When Nile Fibreboard took over the management of Kikonda Central Forest Reserve, it continued with some of the interventions which include;

- i. Provision of local employment opportunities to over 110 people
- ii. Provision of over 8034 tree seedlings to communities, and offering extension services
- iii. Support to 24 public schools with examination papers twice a term, and a bursary scheme for the pupils joining senior one. This was awaiting the opening of schools
- iv. providing medical services and free immunisation and HIV counselling and testing to the neighbours,
- v. providing environmental education to over 535 people in the neighbourhood,
- vi. training and supporting over 200 neighbours in livelihood improvement under various agricultural value chains,
- vii. construction of 21 boreholes, 15 valley dams and 18 rainwater harvesting tanks
- viii. Processed 04 grievances and 40 requests and concerns
- ix. Providing access to firewood from the forest for the community and schools

1. Safety, Health and Environment

The safety and health of all employees is key in ensuring productivity. Therefore, NFB puts value in ensuring that, workers are not adversely affected by the jobs they do. This involves risk assessments, provision of Personal protective equipment, training, and treatment services for those injured on duty and other ailments.

We monitor the effects of work-related incidences using Lost Time frequency rate, which measures the time lost due to injury.

Lost time incidence frequency rate (LTIFR)) is calculated for the month by using the following formula:

$$\text{LTIFR} = \frac{\text{No of Lost time Incidences} \times 200000}{\text{No of hours worked in that period.}}$$

The averages RIFR values for 2015, 2016, and 2017 were 6.3, 4.1, and 4.3 respectively.

With effect from 2017, LTIFR were used as our measure of compliance. LTIFR values for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 were 4.12, 1.83, 1.77, and 2.73 respectively.

For 2021, the LTIFR was 3.38

Nile Fiberboard will ensure that these incidences are kept as low as 1.0, in the coming years, through effective specific job trainings before and during work, provision of effective Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to workers and timely First aid treatment to those who may get injured infield.

2. Ecological:

2.1. Plants, mammals and birds monitoring

Plants and animals living in the areas planted by Nile Fibre Board as well as in the conservation areas within the Forest Reserve have been assessed by *EACL consultants (2010)*, Dr. James Kalema of Makerere University (2011), Dr. Aventino Kasangaki (2013 and 2014) and Dr Sunday Eric of Makerere University (2015) and Dr Dianah (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021) in conjunction with company staff. Methods such as the point counts and line transect are used to asses birds along 5 transects of 2km laid across the different vegetation of the reserve. One transect is located outside the forest reserve for comparison purposes. Along

the same transects, mammals are assessed using the sweeping method. Plants are assessed using nested quadrants of 20 by 20m spaced out at intervals of 200m along the transects. Samples of shrubs, liana, herbs and trees were identified in field and Makerere University herbarium.

Results by 2021 indicate that the total species list for birds stands at 296 and the species list for mammals stands at 30. Of the 296 birds' species, 21 of these birds in the category of rare threatened and endangered species were found. Such birds include:

- i. brown snake eagle,
- ii. grey parrot,
- iii. martial eagle,
- iv. montagu's harrier,
- v. papyrus gonolek,
- vi. toro olive greenbul,
- vii. wooly necked Stock,
- viii. Western Banded Snake Eagle and

Bateleur which is a globally near-threatened bird specie were found. In addition, a species of global concern to the FR Bird list; the Grey-Crowned Crane, Uganda's National Bird also exists. Three mammals including two globally vulnerable that is the African Golden Cat and the Leopard were found. One Mammal in the category of lower risk/near threatened – the sitatunga was found.

In terms of plants, no plants of high value conservation concern were found.

The monitoring results of 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 show an increasing trend in species richness of birds. Indicator species for plants, avian fauna and mammals have been designated and a biodiversity monitoring protocol is in place. Mammals and birds are monitored bi-annually while plants are monitored every three years. Below is a summary of results for birds, mammals and plants.

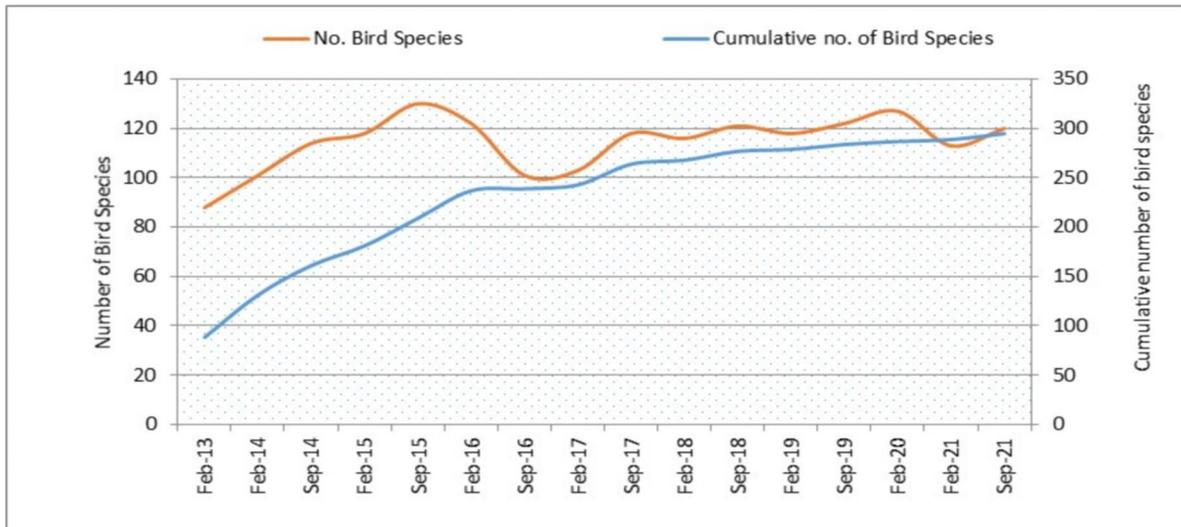


Figure 1. Cumulative Number of Species recorded in the FR over the years 2013 to September, 2021. Trends show stable numbers and continuous increase in species over the years with six new species added during this survey

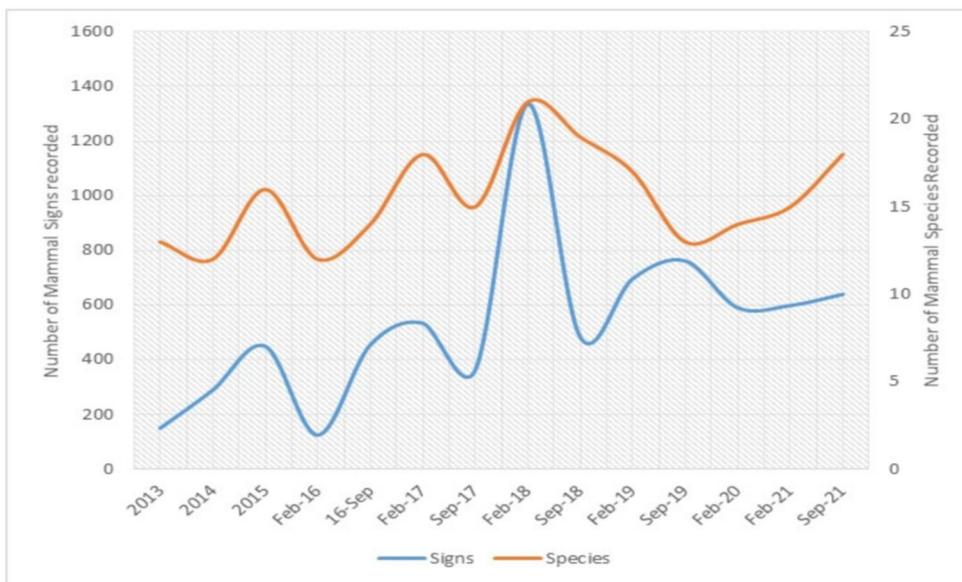


Figure 2: Number of mammal signs and species recorded between 2013 and September, 2021. Results show stable increase in the mammal species and occurrences of signs in the FR but with fluctuations.

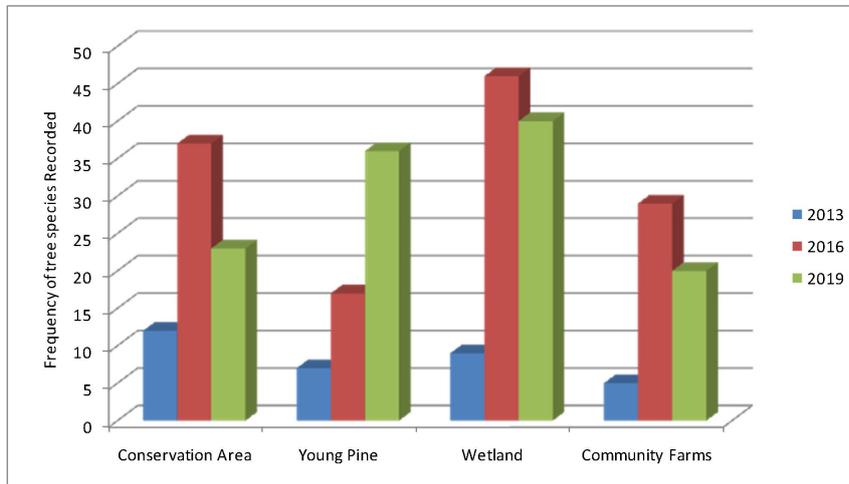


Figure 3: Comparing the frequency of Tree species recorded over time in the areas sampled in Kikonda CFR during the period 2013 - 2019.

The wetland recorded the highest number of tree species in the last two surveys, although the current count has recorded a lower number of species compared to the count in 2016. The Encroached area/Young pine however seem to be recording increasing number of tree species over time

The general reduction in the number of trees can be explained by the fact that the habitats are becoming mature and the dominant tree species seem to be dominating the inferior ones, which eventually die out due to lack of competitive powers over the superior species which remain. This uses the same theory of how the secondary forest becomes a primary forest with fewer but mature tree species.

2.2. Invasive plant species monitoring results

Monitoring of invasive species (namely, bug-weed, lantana, and acacia spp.) is conducted annually. Results of monitoring conducted in 2021 show that the current infestation levels have increased compared to the year 2020, the average infestation has increased from 6.6% to 8.2%, Lantana camara contributing the highest increase. Plans are in place to reverse this trend in 2022.

2.3. Water quality monitoring

Quality of water is tested every year. Water samples are collected from various sources and delivered to a reputable laboratory (Government analytical laboratory). The main objective is

to find out whether the operations of the company have an impact on water quality and whether the water used for human consumption is potable.

The water quality tests results overtime have indicated that water is safe for human consumption and free of any chemical residues. Results of the tests conducted in 2020 and 2021 indicated that the water is free from any pesticide residues; however, the microbiology tests indicated contamination of some water sources. Recommendations of the need to boil the water or put water guard tablets before consumption were made by the laboratory which have since been adopted.

2.4. Waste disposal sites

A central waste management site located within the FMU where all waste generated within it is deposited with the exception of medical waste, is regularly checked in accordance with company procedures. The objective is to ensure that all waste resulting from the operations of the forest management Unit must be properly handled to avoid spillover effects to the safety, health and our environment. The waste management site has been ranked among the best ever seen in the forestry sector and other related businesses.

In 2021, a total of 2778 kilograms of waste was collected at the central waste disposal site. Of these 251 kilograms was non-bio-degradable while 2527kilograms was biodegradable.

2.5. Pests and Diseases:

Damage to the trees by pest or disease is visually monitored and recorded on a “Pest and Disease Monitoring” form. This is done both in the plantation and in the nursery. Occasionally pest and disease experts are invited to the plantation to help in the identification of the pests and diseases then offer solutions to the problem. The pests that have had occurrences in the plantation are termites and some caterpillars. There have also been Red gum lerp psyllid, squirrels, leptocybe invasa and bronze bug. In 2018, Aphids were also confirmed to be present in the plantation by experts from National Forestry Research Institute and together with them, a bio-agent (*Psyllaephagus bliteus*) was introduced for the Red gum lerp which had already been introduced earlier in the eastern part of Uganda and it was just transferred to Kyankwanzi. Later observations showed that the bio-agent has controlled the population of Red gum lerp psyllid and to date it is no longer a threat in the plantation. For now, the most serious pest is termites in the Eucalyptus stands.

2.6. Soils:

Nearly the entire area of the Forest Reserve could be used for tree planting. Only few areas have shallow or wet soils to an extent that would not allow trees to be planted. Four different site classes are found within the boundaries of the KFR according to the soil map of Radwanski (1960) and these are; Ferralsols, Alisols, Plinthosols and Gleysols. This was established during an initial survey of the soils done by a German student Matthias Baur, as part of his thesis for Larenstein University in 2007. This covered soil classification and site assessment for the suitability of *Pinus Caribaea* and other species at the Kikonda Forest Reserve, as well as the susceptibility to degradation.

2.7. Weather monitoring

Historical data has always been the best way to predict weather trends since such daily observations of the weather conditions are continuously monitored at Kikonda Forest Reserve. Results indicate that 1026mm of rain was received in 2021. This was lower than the previous year of 2020 which indicted 1,200mm, though it can be considered. There were two rainy peak seasons were noted i.e., March-May and September – November).

3. Economic:

3.1. Summary of monitoring of growth rates, regeneration rates and survival counts.

The growth of trees which forms the basis of the future economic performance of the company is measured annually using a system of app. 200 permanent sample plots. Result show that growth is in the range typical for the country. The mean annual increment for pine is 13-23m³ and the mean annual increment for eucalyptus is 26-28m³.

During plantation establishment phase, tree survival is monitored monthly. Results indicate that there is a good seedling performance in the field of eucalyptus. It is more than 80 percent after the first year of establishment.

3.2. Yield of forest products harvested.

Currently, no clear felling is being done, however; commercial thinning is being undertaken both in Pine and Eucalyptus stands. Eucalyptus being harvested for Transmission poles, MDF and fuel wood from residues, whereas Pine for providing Fibreboard, particle wood and biomass.

Results from the thinning volumes show a deviation of 31%, which is above the threshold. This is partly due to the wind throws that happened in areas where thinning was planned, after marking was done. This was more pronounced in areas that were previously resin tapped.

However, measures have been put in place to ensure that the threshold doesn't go beyond the planned + or minus 10 percent in 2022

3.3. Post-harvest monitoring

Post-harvest assessments are always done after harvesting or thinning. At Kikonda Forest reserve, the operations ensure that there is no damage to Residual stands, conservation areas, Biodiversity hotspots, minimal disturbances on roads and surrounding vegetation. This is done by proper harvest planning and supervision.

Residual treetops and branches of non-merchantable sizes are always left infield as means of stabilizing the ground over against any erosion danger and acting as sources of manure for next rotations.

3.4. Costs, productivity and efficiency analysis; results of analyses are incorporated into plans

Work studies conducted on operations have been incorporated in setting reasonable work targets for all the operations up to date. The budget is prepared, present and actual costs versus planned are always drawn and monitored to ensure that it runs in line.

4. Formal records of Contractor compliance monitoring

Contractor compliance is done through routine field assessment during the operations to ensure that the set legal, administrative, and work standards are followed. Where shortfalls are discovered, internal correct actions are always raised and closed timely. Results indicate that most of the non compliances of 2021 have been closed.

5. Fire Preparedness:

Fires are regularly monitored, and a fire team is always at standby during the dry seasons within the year. The causes have mostly been by arson and honey hunting in the plantation and the conservation areas. A few fires were as a result of fire escapes from neighboring farmers. Management uses these results to improve the prevention methods. In 2021, there were a total of 18 fire incidences that were recorded in 2021, a total of 7.25ha were affected and all recovered the other fires had no significant impact.

6. Monitoring of illegal activities.

A team of forest guards have been employed to monitor the FMU for illegal activities. A daily Patrol Report” is completed, which is summarized into a monthly report from which quarterly reports are generated and submitted to National Forestry Authority (NFA). In 2021, there was minimal destruction registered on the plantation save for a few compartments which were negatively affected by cattle. Cattle encroachment and establishment of kraals was highest during the months of March, April, July and December 2021. These were dealt with through sensitizations. Some cases of illegal logging were reported in the conservation areas.

Note: For more information, contact Nile Fibre Board at kikondaforestreserve@nfb.ug