



LISTEN TO "MITIKI YETU" ON RADIO PAMBAZUKO 89.5 FM EVERY FRIDAY 19:30-20:00 & SATURDAY 07:30-08:00

KVTC SINCE 1992

From Irvine's desk

COVID 19 KILLS. WASH HANDS REGULARLY

KVTC's Newsletter will now be published twice per year. This is the first issue for 2021. Wherever you are; mask up and stay safe.

10 Years at KVTC as Chief Forest Manager

By Jan Leon Viljoen

I arrived at KVTC in August 2010 with more than 25 years of commercial forestry experience and not knowing much about growing teak. I was planning to stay at KVTC for two years. After the two years, KVTC renewed my contracts and that sequence of renewals only ended in December 2020. I had to learn fast about growing teak. If I must highlight a couple of things during my time at KVTC it is the following.

Soon after my arrival at KVTC I realized that the thinning regime needs some tweaking and in the middle of 2011. we adopted a new thinning regime that improved the volume per ha by about 5%.

In 2010 KVTC harvested about 16 000 m³ and in 2011 about 22 000 m³ by 2020 KVTC was harvesting about 36 000 m³ per year. From 2011 to 2014 most of the volume was from thinning. In 2020 about 80% was from clear fell.

KVTC started with one of the biggest teak tree improvement programs in 2013 and is still on-going. The first improved material is in the nursery and we are planning commercial deployment by 2023. KVTC also

implemented a research and development program in 2013 with the help of Andrew Callister as KVTC's R&D consultant.

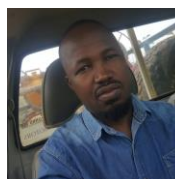
From 2018 I started training Geoffrey Kessy who was then the silviculture manager at KVTC to take over as Chief Forest Manager in January 2021.

The Future for Leon Viljoen.

Unfortunately early retirement is not an option for me so I am going back to what I was doing before KVTC as a Forestry Consultant. I am based in Robertson in the Western Cape Winelands of South Africa. I work as consultant for KVTC remotely and I will visit KVTC 4 times per year.

KVTC Experience (Forestry department)

By: Geoffrey Kessy



a) Joining the team

It was 1st of July 2013 that I was given the opportunity to join the KVTC forestry team as a plantation manager. I was quite excited as that was my first experience in commercial forestry and reflecting on the days back then I should confess that there was more for me to learn than what I could deliver. It was a privilege for me as young Tanzanian forestry graduate to be exposed to a professionally managed commercial forestry business where there were countless

areas and opportunities for me to learn and grow carrier wise.

b) Growing with the team

After I joined as plantation manager, I was assigned a block to manage day to day silvicultural operations. This included land preparation, planting, tending of planted trees from weeding to pruning, fire protection and prevention. It was quite challenging at that time.

From a plantation manager in early 2014 I was transferred to the planning and research section whereby as the assistant manager I was involved with managing the nursery, planning work and the research where KVTC is running an extensive tree improvement program. Some of my proudest work at that time was the successful establishment of the first genetic trials in compartment A28 in Ichima and B24 in Narubungo.

1st of June 2016 I was promoted to Silviculture manager and my task was to lead a team of 5 plantation managers on the day-to-day silviculture operations and in that position myself and the team are proud of the number of hectares that we have successfully established in the second rotation.

On top of learning at work, KVTC has given me countless opportunities to attend training and workshops for carrier development in and out of the country and I am grateful for that.

c) *Leading the team*

Mid 2020 I was promoted to Assistant forestry manager and in January 2021 I was confirmed in the position of Chief Forestry Manager. I understand that its quite a challenging role yet exciting and one that I will give my all to make it a success story. KVTC forestry department has lots of talented young team players that I believe together we will move ahead. For us as team it is the trust that the company's top management has given us that we see as department and for that we will make sure that we achieve all the set goals.

My goal in the department in the next 2 to 3 years is first to see that KVTC starts deploying commercially the results of the project +20 research program. This includes confirmation and implementation of the best teak thinning regime and continuation of the fertilizer programs.



Yusta Abel

Plantation Manager.

Personal profile

Yusta is a 25 year old talented young single lady ,from Dar es Salaam. She joined the KVTC team in October 2020 as a trainee Plantation Manager.

Professional Profile

Yusta is a professional forester with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from Sokoine University of Agriculture. She is fresh from university and for the past six months, has been exposed to all forestry disciplines at KVTC.

The Induction

On top of basic training she is receiving, Yusta has been exposed to field operations that include nursery work, tree planting, coppice management, weeding control, pruning, thinning, clear felling and transportation of logs to the mill. Underlying all this has been an appreciation of the importance of the health and safety of workers at work. In the nursery she acquired skills on seed pretreatment, seedlings

kvtc@kvtc-tz.com / <http://kvtc-tz.com/>

stumps and clones production and nursery tending operations in general.

Yusta's main goals at KVTC

"To protect nature and biological diversity, manage every teak compartment well to achieve high yield and produce good quality timber".

Mavimba Village gets free off-cuts.

By Kennedy Haule



August 19th, 2020 was the first day ordinary citizens of Mavimba had free access to offcuts from KVTC's mill. Up to 250 turn up on Wednesday's to collect the offcuts.

Hussein Abdallah Manjoti (41) a father of four kids is a beneficiary of free access of timber offcuts supplied by KVTC. He appreciates free access to off cuts as this has changed his livelihood. Hussein is a carpenter uses the off cuts to make tables, office chairs, beds and other types of furniture. He has used off cuts to build a shelter for his son, a secondary school graduate to start up a mobile phone services business. The furniture building enterprise has been extra source of income alongside his subsistence farming. Hussein provides affordable furniture to people in the village, hence improving the quality of the people.

The offcuts have created an informal self-employment opportunity because timber from natural forests has disappeared and when it is available it is prohibitively expensive and in most cases from illegal and unsustainable sources.

Juma Ramadhani (54), a married father of 3 from Shinyanga moved into Mavimba recently. He testifies that without off cuts, it would have made his resettlement exercise difficult. He has used the off cuts to build three houses and one livestock unit for keeping cattle.

Other benefits

Relations between security personnel at KVTC and community members have

improved tremendously. Theft of timber from the mill has also virtually disappeared.

The decision to allow people to collect off cuts has improved KVTC image among ordinary people because it has a direct impact on their daily livelihood.

KVTC Areas of Special Interest.

By Joseph John

KVTC Areas of Special Interest (ASI) are locations that warrant special attention. These areas include mostly areas of environmental, archaeological, historical, cultural or research interest.

Mpingo tree (African black wood) with scientific name 'Dalbergia melanoxylon' is part of the conservation with special management in KVTC premises considered as an area of special interest.

This type of tree is a gnarled, heavily branched tree that grows extremely slowly, reaching to harvestable age for between 70 to 100 years. It grows under a wide range of environmental conditions forming an important component of many ecosystems, including the open miombo woodland.

KVTC identifies all locations with mpingo trees and protects them from illegal harvesting without permit. KVTC does monitoring of these trees in compliance with FSC and ISO 14001 requirements. Visitors and tourists are welcome to visit the site.

