

From Irvine's Desk

Welcome to the KVTC Newsletter – 2026 First Edition. This mid-year edition highlights some of the key moments that have shaped the first half of 2026. We celebrate our people through the recognition of our May Day Worker of the Year, reflect on our International Women's Day celebration at Udzungwa Mountains National Park, and share the impact of our community outreach to Ukwama Children's Home in Mahenge. We also provide updates from our core business operations, featuring insights into the company's log sales activities and saw shop and showcasing the work that continues to drive KVTC forward.

In addition, we are pleased to highlight the recent visit of Mr. Crispin Golding, one of KVTC's pioneers, who joined the company in 1986 as Development Manager.

Happy reading!

KVTC Celebrates Worker of the Year 2026



KVTC proudly congratulates Mr. Barnabas Gerod Komba, for being named Worker of the Year 2026 and receiving the TUCTA Outstanding Employee Award during this year's May Day celebrations.

Since joining KVTC in 2015, Barnabas has consistently demonstrated professionalism, dedication, and a strong commitment to safety and excellence. His outstanding work ethic, reliability, and positive attitude have earned him the respect of both colleagues and management. This recognition is a testament to his hard work and contribution to KVTC's success. We are proud to celebrate his achievement and thank him for his continued service and commitment.

Celebrating International Women's Day 2026

In March 2026, KVTC women came together to celebrate International Women's Day through fellowship, reflection, and community engagement. The celebration included a visit to Ukwama Children's Home in Ulunga District and an excursion to the beautiful Udzungwa Mountains National Park.

The event provided an opportunity for women across the company to strengthen relationships, share experiences, and celebrate the valuable contributions women make to KVTC and the wider community. It also highlighted



KVTC's continued commitment to promoting equal opportunities, professional growth, and employee well-being.

The day was filled with inspiration, unity, and appreciation, making it a memorable celebration of the strength, resilience, and achievements of women at KVTC.

Strengthening Security Through Training



As part of KVTC's commitment to maintaining a safe and secure working environment, 35 security guards participated in a Guard Basic Awareness Training Course held at Mavimba from 20–23 April 2026.

The training brought together KVTC- guards and village game scouts responsible for forest patrol and access control duties. The training was facilitated by Alinda Kivaya from Garda World Security Company.

Participants received training in key areas including forest patrol techniques, crime prevention, observation skills, customer care, first aid, firefighting, incident management, report writing, human rights, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Practical sessions were also conducted to strengthen hands-on skills and preparedness in the field. Anti-corruption training was done by PCCB - Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau on the last day.

The training provided an important opportunity to enhance cooperation between different security teams, improve professional standards, and reinforce KVTC's commitment to safety, security, and responsible forest management.

A Visit from a KVTC Pioneer



In May 2026, KVTC had the pleasure of welcoming back former Development Manager **Mr. Crispin Golding** and his wife, **Susanna**.

Crispin joined KVTC in 1996 and was instrumental in the company's early development. Returning to Tanzania for the first time in over 26 years, he was able to witness firsthand the remarkable transformation of both KVTC and the wider Kilombero Valley region.

During the visit, Crispin toured the plantations, nursery, sawmill, and other operational areas, reconnecting with long-serving employees and meeting many new faces. Reflecting on the company's progress, he expressed admiration for the scale of development achieved, the professionalism of operations, and KVTC's continued commitment to supporting its employees and local communities.

Speaking about the visit, Crispin noted that many of the achievements visible today, from the modern sawmill and improved infrastructure to the well-managed plantations and tree improvement programme, were once aspirations that seemed far beyond reach.

His visit served as a meaningful reminder of KVTC's journey from a young and ambitious company to a leading forestry business, while also celebrating the people whose dedication has made that growth possible. We were honoured to welcome Crispin and Susan back to *"The changes over the past 26 years are quite incredible, really impressive, and more than I could have imagined."* — Crispin Golding

Sales of Teak Logs

KVTC currently harvests about 35,000 cubic meters of teak logs per year. About 50% of that is sold to other sawmills, who will then process it, add value and sell to different customers.

To ensure transparency, equality, and fairness while maximizing the value of its resources. Since January 2022, KVTC has been selling its logs through an open market auction. Every 2 months KVTC announces a date where any interested entity (personal or legally registered businesses) can participate in the auction.

KVTC announces the auction dates and itinerary and interested clients are taken to the field and shown trees that will be harvested during the coming two months.

- KVTC then sends out information on available log volumes for sale and reserve prices per log class to all potential clients.
- On the day of the auction, all clients (one representative from each) come together in a room with the KVTC tender committee with their sealed bids.
- Bids are opened one by one in front of everyone and the records are kept.
- The tender committee will then allocate the available log volume per log class to the highest bidders in each log category.

- Clients who are successful and have volume allocated to them are expected to pay a deposit and can then start collecting logs for the period of two months.

This open-market method of selling logs has proven to be a success both for KVTC and local sawmills in the Kilombero valley.

Before 2022, KVTC had contracts with 5 sawmills next to its mill, to supply logs annually. Since the introduction of the new open market method, the number of log buyers has increased, and includes both big and small timber businesses.

In its last auction that was held in May of 2026, 11 different timber businesses participated and successfully secured logs.

Inside the Saw Shop: The Team Behind Precision Cutting



Behind every quality timber product at KVTC is a dedicated Saw Shop team ensuring that cutting tools are maintained to the highest standards. The department plays a critical role in supporting mill operations by preparing, sharpening, and repairing band saws and circular saw blades used across production lines. On a typical day, the team services 16–20 band saw blades and maintains up to 48 circular saw blades each week, helping to keep production efficient and uninterrupted. Their work includes blade tensioning, swaging, sharpening, welding, and retipping. The Saw Shop's success is driven by the expertise and commitment of its team members, who combine years of experience with continuous skill development to ensure reliable performance across the mill.

Did You Know?

- A standard band saw blade is approximately 6 metres long and contains 188 teeth.
- Each tooth can pass through timber 200–400 times per minute.
- The Saw Shop prepares and sharpens more than 3,300 teeth every day, demonstrating the precision and dedication behind KVTC's timber production.

The Saw Shop may work behind the scenes, but its contribution is essential to maintaining the quality, efficiency, and reliability that KVTC is known for.