

FORESTRY COMMISSION



FORESTER

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

VOLUME I





In this issue

Conservation Business in Gwaai

Forest Reserve

Forestry in the community

Tree planting updates

In focus page

Upcoming events page

Editor's Note

Welcome to the February edition of the Forester monthly newsletter.

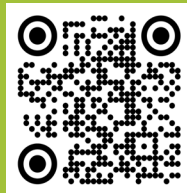
Conservation Business in Gwaai Forest Reserve

BIZ Element, a Zimbabwe indigenous company, won the right to develop two business outfits in Gwaai Forest Land located in Lupane district. The company will develop a business complex sitting on approximately 4 hectares of land and also develop safari lodges on the banks of Lupane-Bubi dam which will take up approximately 1 700 hectares on the Gwaai Forest Land side. After meeting the contractual obligations enshrined in the lease agreement the official site handover took place on Saturday, 17th February 2024. This arrangement will see the development of accommodation facilities, a conference centre, private lodges, fishing facilities, game drives/viewing facilities and development of a solar farm at the Bubi Dam shore site while development plans for the food court area include construction of business offices, medical facilities and the food court and filling station. This development is in tandem with the transformative developments happening in Lupane District as the provincial capital of Matabeleland North province, a status it was accorded in 1999.



Forestry Commission team led by the Chief Conservator, A, T embo and BIZ Element Managing Director and his team standing by peg 1 of Food Court area

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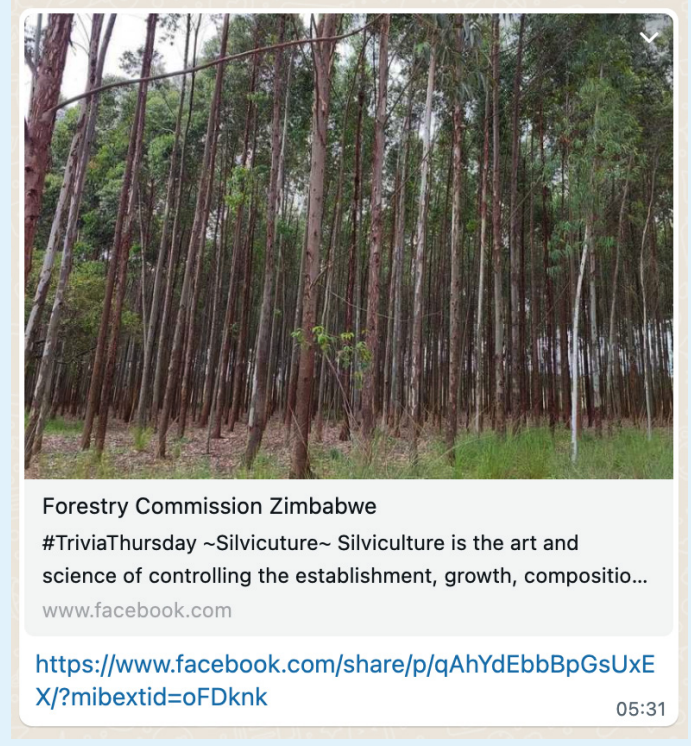
The company had its Managing Director, Mr Sidney Hall, the Finance Director, two architects and the company engaged to conduct an environmental impact assessment while the Forestry Commission was represented by the Chief Conservator of Forests led a team including the Business Development and Marketing Manager, the Forest and Wildlife Ecologist and other key units on the Forestry Commission.



Safari Lodge Development site by Bubi dam shore

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THE TENTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP10) TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL (WHO FCTC) and the THIRD MEETING OF PARTIES (MOP3) TO THE PROTOCOL TO ELIMINATE ILLICIT TRADE IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Forestry Commission was part of the delegation that attended the 10th Conference of Parties (COP10) to the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco held from the 5th to the 10th and the third meeting of parties (MOP3) to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products held in Panama City from the 12th to the 15th of February

Zimbabwe`s delegation to the two meetings was made up of officials from: the Office of the President and Cabinet; National Economic Consultative Forum; Ministry of Industry and Commerce ; Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare; Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development; Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife; Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion; Ministry of Health and Child Care; Environmental Management Agency; and Forestry Commission

. The delegation was led by the Deputy Chief Secretary; Policy Analysis, Coordination, Devolution and Development Planning, W. L. Manungo. The World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is the first global public health treaty and regarded as an evidence-based treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health as it relates to health issues associated with the consumption and use of tobacco products. The WHO FCTC was developed by countries in response to the globalization of the tobacco smoking associated health issues. It aims to tackle some of the causes of the tobacco smoking related diseases, including complex factors with cross-border effects, such as trade liberalization and direct foreign investment, tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship beyond national borders, and illicit trade in tobacco products. Of interest to the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife and the Forestry Commission are



Forestry Commission was represented by the Deputy Director General, Mr Stephen Zingwena

articles 17 and 18 of the Protocol which focus on the environmental and human rights impacts of tobacco. Tobacco growing countries like Zimbabwe are already implementing articles 17 and 18 of the FCTC and are addressing the negative consequences of tobacco growing on human rights and on the environment. The Tobacco wood Energy Program (TWEP) aligns with corresponding obligations of Parties to the protocol to control environmental degradation caused by the tobacco value chain. The Convention entered into force on 27 February 2005 and there are currently 183 Parties to the Convention. Zimbabwe became Party to the Convention in March 2015 but before then, the country participated as an observer.

THIRD MEETING OF PARTIES (MOP3) TO THE PROTOCOL TO ELIMINATE ILLICIT TRADE IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS

As an observer to the Protocol, Zimbabwe delivered a statement on the implementation progress report. In the statement, Zimbabwe highlighted that the country takes the issue of Illicit Trade on tobacco products seriously for both outbound and inbound tobacco products. The position indicated that illicit trade was a major global challenge and should therefore, be eliminated. Zimbabwe informed the meeting that the country was in the process of undertaking national consultations with a view to accede to the Protocol.

FORESTRY IN THE COMMUNITY

Growing the Future: Fruit Trees Take Root in Gwanda Schools

By Felix Matutu



Forestry Commission has made strides to establish orchards and bring lush green leaves of pawpaw, guava, lemon, orange and avocado trees and grapes to schools in Gwanda district.

The initiative, launched on National Youth Day (February 21st, 2024), aims to plant fruit trees in at least two schools every month. This effort promotes environmental responsibility, food nutrition, and has the huge potential of generating future income for students. The theme for this year's National Youth Day, "Positioning Youth Empowerment and Development Towards Vision 2030," resonates deeply with this project. It highlights the importance of empowering young people to understand the immense value of trees. Trees are not just environmental guardians, absorbing harmful carbon dioxide and releasing life-giving oxygen; they also hold the potential for significant financial gain, especially if managed sustainably. Mkwidzi Secondary School embodies the spirit of this initiative. With dreams of establishing a fruit orchard and even a juice-making enterprise, the school readily embraced the opportunity provided by the Forestry Commission in collaboration with Nyaradzo. The tree seedling planted include – pawpaw, guava, lemon, orange, and avocado – offer a diverse range of fruits, paving the way for potential future profits that can benefit generations of students to come.

This initiative aligns perfectly with the updated school's curriculum and education 5.0, which incorporates agricultural studies across all grade levels. The unfortunate lack of rain this year, which severely impacted the school's crop yields and dreams of a self-sustaining feeding scheme, has only served to highlight the importance of this alternative agricultural endeavor like orchards. The planting of fruit trees in Gwanda schools is more than just an environmental initiative; it's an investment in the future. By empowering young people to understand the value of trees, both financially and environmentally, we are cultivating a generation of responsible and sustainable stewards of our planet.

Building on indigenous Natural Resource Management

By Violet Makoto

Traditional religious belief continue to facilitate the conservation of indigenous forests in Zimbabwe. Forestry Commission recently visited Mudahosi forest shrine, located in Ward 21, Chokudamiro Village 3 which is located about 80 km from Murambinda Business Centre in the Buhera District of Manicaland province, covering ± 20 hectares. This area is under Headman Murwira, and is believed to be the burial site of Chief Nyashanu (Mudahosi). The forest area is a sacred space for the community, conserved through traditional beliefs and used for traditional rituals as practiced by the local community. It is one of the few pockets of pristine forests that is noticeable in the area, still rich in the diversity of natural features, including rocky outcrops, pockets of miombo woodland, and a variety of plant species. It also hosts the Nyamunga river which flows along its western border. While dominated by indigenous tree species like *Brachystegia spiciformis* (Msasa), *Julbernardia globiflora* (munhondo), *Colophospermum mopane*, and *Combretum* species, the forest is currently faced with the challenge of human encroachment mainly for crop cultivation and this is slowly leading to its deforestation. The traditional leadership has been appealed to

Government to intervene, advocating for its gazetting as a protected area and/or its registration as a National Heritage site. Forestry Commission went on the ground to assess potential interventions that can be introduced in the community to facilitate the sustainable utilization of the forest ie sustainable forestry practices for improved livelihoods and resilience, forest-based income generating activities (e.g., beekeeping, mushroom cultivation), technologies for efficient wood fuel use and conservation and community-based forest monitoring and protection strategies.



Part of the Forest that hosts the sacred shrine, still well preserved



A view of the side of the forest that has been affected by human encroachment

Supporting Grassroots Forest-based Enterprises

By Violet Makoto

Forestry Commission delivered on its promise to support Robson Rashirayi of Tsholotsho, a young man who has exhibited a passion for growing trees. The major challenge he was facing in his tree nursery enterprise was having a reliable source of water for year-round production and forestry chipped in and facilitated the drilling of a borehole at the nursery site.

In a recent visit to the nursery, he had over 5000 seedlings produced, with prospects to produce more as the nursery has a holding capacity of 20000 seedlings.

This is one way Forestry Commission has given back some proceeds from teak timber harvesting in the district to ensure that communities derive some benefits from the utilisation of their natural resources



The Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, Hon N.M Ndhlovu visited the nursery on the side-lines of the Matabeleland North Community Engagement Program held in February



Engaging Communities in Forest-based Enterprises

By Violet Makoto

Forestry Commission has been on the ground with technical support for a project initiated by World Vision-Zimbabwe with funding from World Food Programme in the Mola community in ward 3 of Nyaminyami district (Kariba rural). The project is implementing a 'Food for Assets' (FFA) programme which recognised the need, among other activities to establish a banana plantation at Nabole which will provide multiple

benefits to both the environment and community livelihoods through provision of supplementary nutrition as well as income generation. The local Forestry Extension officer has been working with the community, providing technical advice on establishment and management of the one-hectare banana plantation.



FEO Nyaminyami District engaged in community capacity-building



The current status of the banana plantation

Tree Planting Updates

Tree planting continues in the communities. Forestry Commission Bindura District this month facilitated two tree planting events at Chireka and Wayerera Secondary Schools.

In line with the running theme for the tree planting season, "Trees and Forests for Ecosystem Restoration and Improved Livelihoods," Wayerera Secondary school was focussed on the rehabilitation of a former Bindura Rural District Council pit sand abstraction site which has since been backfilled.



Tree planting is coming in to aide the rehabilitation process of the area to make it productive again.

At Chireka Secondary School exotic fruit trees (orchard establishment), eucalyptus trees and a variety of indigenous trees were planted to address the needs of the schools and surrounding community



Bindura District intensifies its schools tree planting campaign. In view of the lack of rains, the strategy has been to identify tree planting sites that have a good water source and security to enhance the chances of survival of trees planted. Schools have traditionally been able to provide both. Shashi View Primary school are now hosts to an orchard established

on the 23rd of February consisting of a variety of fruit trees; avocado, lemons, peaches, paw paws, granadillas and grapes. A few indigenous trees were also planted to provide shade in the school grounds.



World Wetlands Day Tree Planting Program

Most of Forestry Commission provincial offices participated in World Wetlands Day commemorations on the 2nd of February. The National and Provincial commemorations all incorporated tree planting in line with the theme, ‘

“Wetlands and Sustainable Livelihoods,”



Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, Hon N.M Ndhlovu, planting a tree in Murehwa as part of WWD commemorations. Looking on (in white coat) is the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Mashonaland East, Hon A. Munzverengwi



World Wetlands Day Mashonaland Central commemorated at Nhamoyapera Community garden in Guruve District on the 2nd of February 2024. Minister of State for Provincial affairs and Devolution Captain (Rtd) Cde Christopher Magomo (in white coat) was the Guest of Honour.



Tree Planting at the Masvingo WWD commemorations in Marongere community where the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Hon E. Chadzamira was the Guest of Honour.



In Focus Page

In this edition, we focus on the Research and Training Division's Tree Seed Centre. This is a registered facility for supply of source identified and tested seed for exotic and indigenous tree seed. It is located at the Head Office at No. 1 Orange Grove Drive, Highlands in Harare. The Seed Centre is there to provide advisory services to its clients which include:

- Seed handling
- Germination techniques
- Seed pre-treatment and methods of breaking seed dormancy
- Selection of suitable species for the areas they intend to plant trees. (Site-species matching)



Tree Seed Centre Staff working on seed balls, our latest technology towards assisted natural regeneration of forests



Our seed undergoes testing before it is distributed to farmers and commercial plantations



Processed seed of the 2023 Tree Of the Year Vachellia Xanthophloea/Fever acacia

Upcoming Events Page



Forests are more than just trees; they are vital to our well-being, providing us with clean air, water, food, and essential resources. In the face of climate change and growing demands, innovative approaches are crucial to ensure the sustainable management and utilization of forests for present and future generations. The International Day of Forests (IDF) 2024, themed "Forests and Innovation," provides a timely platform to showcase and discuss practical solutions for our community.

3 March	Africa Environment Day/ Wangari Maathai Day
3 March	World Wildlife Day
21 March	International Day of Forests
22 March	World Water Day
23 March	World Meteorological Day
23 March	Earth Hour

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