

Plantation Management Plan Public Summary for Rwandan Plantations

April 2020

Introduction

This is a public summary of New Forests Rwanda Plantations Management Plan. A copy of the full plan is available upon request from forest management.

Management Objectives

The objectives of New Forests Rwanda are to:

- Establish profitable commercial timber plantations of fast growing tree species which have adapted well to the Rwandan environment and have successfully been grown in this country
- Protect the remaining natural forests that occur along streams and rehabilitate those forests that have been destroyed and degraded by illegal activities
- Provided employment to rural communities where unemployment levels are very high
- Identify community orientated support projects in which the company can assist in facilitation and execution
- Introduce an out grower scheme whereby the Nyungwe Plantation would be a nucleus resource and centre of excellence providing extension assistance to the local community
- To create a multi-faceted timber company and to develop the Rwanda-based forest lands into a centre of forestry excellence and best practises, with investment in pole plants, saw milling and other value added processing, providing a role model for both Rwanda and East Africa
- To help meet government goals of alleviating rural poverty and to stimulate the development of the local private sector through contracting and spin-off private enterprise

Description

Description of the Forest Resources to be Managed

Nyungwe National Park Buffer Zone is situated in the Western and Southern Province of Rwanda and is 9 987ha in extent and forms a rough boundary around the Nyungwe National Park. It was established primarily as a buffer between the national park and the surrounding communities to manage the anthropogenic pressures on the national park, and thus protect it. Nyungwe National Park has a wide diversity of animal species, making it a priority for conservation in Africa and globally. The plantations are of fast growing exotic species (mainly *Eucalyptus* and *Pinus*), grown for poles and saw logs.



Map 1: Nyungwe Forest National Park (red pin)

Environmental Limitations

The major environmental limitations are ensuring that our activities serve to protect the park, and the high potential for erosion given the steep hills and high rainfall. The tropical climatic conditions also result in swift weed growth in some areas.

Land Use and Ownership Status

The Nyungwe National Park Buffer Zone is a concession area wholly owned by the Government of Rwanda.

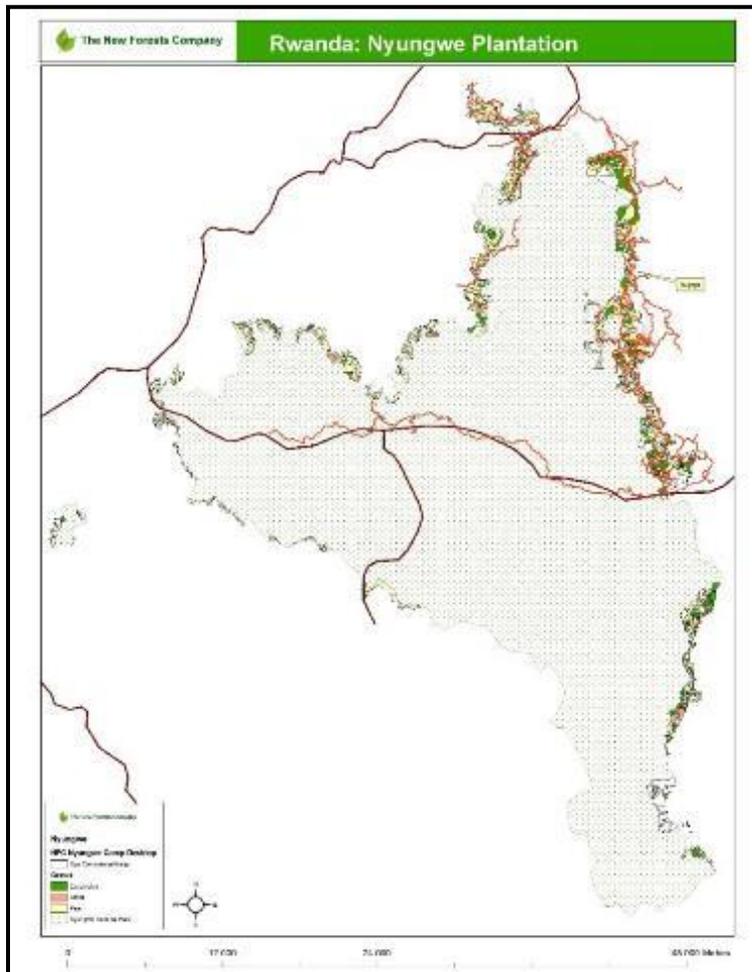
Socio-Economic Conditions

The surrounding rural communities are subsistence farmers, and farm tea and coffee on plantations. NFC has also contributed positively through community projects towards infrastructure development. Firewood and charcoal are the main sources of fuel in the area.

Profile of Adjacent Lands

The natural forest in Nyungwe National Park is the core conservation area. It represents an afro-montane forest that is globally important in terms of biodiversity. Dominating the shores of Lake Kivu in the south-west of Rwanda and adjoining the national park of Kabira in Burundi. Nyungwe National Park is probably the largest montane rainforest in Africa (97000ha). Its altitude ranges between 1900 to 2950m above sea level. This confers it a complex mosaic of vegetation types that are habitat to diverse fauna, some of which are regionally endemic to the Albertine Rift. The forest is threatened by human population density around it.

Adjacent lands outside the park are characterised by villages and towns where the main land use is subsistence agriculture, and coffee and tea cultivation. Other activities are construction, poaching, and illegal logging.



Map 2: Plantation areas around Nyungwe Forest National Park

Rationale for Rate of Annual Harvest and Species Selection

Rationale for Rate of Annual Harvest

Sustainability is the main driver for determining the rate of annual harvest, coupled with forest normalisation. The New Forests obtained the concession for the area when it was already a mature plantation, though unmanaged.

Rationale for Species Selection

NFC only plants exotic tree species. Species best adapted to the environment; ideal for poles, biofuel and saw timber markets will be planted.

Provisions for Monitoring of Forest Growth and Dynamics

The plantation has permanent sample plots that are measured annually. This data is used for monitoring and planning purposes.

Environmental Safeguards

High Conservation Value Attributes

The plantation forms a buffer zone around a park that is rich in fauna diversity; effectively the park is a high conservation value area. The park is under the control of the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Harvesting

Site limitations determine the harvesting system used. Generally, most harvesting is done using motor manual felling and cable logging or hand extraction.

END OF SUMMARY